

W.Bank students stage protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Students at three West Bank universities on Wednesday protested against Israel's decision to deport four Palestinians accused of "subversive political activity." A spokesman for the Israeli occupation forces said students at Birzeit University hurled stones at Israeli cars, blocked roads and burned tyres. The protest broke up without the intervention of Israeli forces. Classes were boycotted at the Technion in Hebron, and security forces blocked the entrance at Bethlehem University to keep protesters out, the spokesman said. The Palestinians are appealing against expulsion orders which the occupation authorities issued this week. They say they are being expelled for their "political views," not "security" offences. Israel has expelled 21 Palestinians since September as part of a get-tough response to resistance activities.

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Klibi due in Amman on Friday

TUNIS (Petra) — Arab League Secretary-General Chaddi Klibi is due in Amman on Friday for a visit and talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior officials. Arab League sources said that the talks will deal with current Arab affairs and ways to bolster solidarity among Arab countries.

Iraq reaffirms desire for peace

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, on a visit to Kuwait on Wednesday, affirmed his country's readiness for a "just and honourable peace" with Iran. The minister delivered a message (from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Contents of the message were not disclosed, but Mr. Aziz said it dealt with "current and future threats to Arab security and how they can be confronted through a unified Arab stand." Mr. Aziz said "no concrete results" had yet been reached in the Saudi Arabian-sponsored bid to bring about a conciliation between Iraq and Syria. But Baghdad "considers Arab solidarity a necessity to confront the dangers besetting the Arab Nation," Mr. Aziz added.

Obeid begins talks in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq began talks here Wednesday on joint cooperation in transport and communications. The talks also tackled bilateral relations in air, land and sea transport and ways of further promoting them. The Jordanian side in the talks was led by Transport Minister Farhi Obeid while the Iraqi side was led by Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Abdul Raheem.

Israel seeks details of Sinai shooting

CAIRO (AP) — Israel asked Egypt on Wednesday for information about its investigation into a shooting incident in which seven Israeli tourists were killed in the Sinai peninsula. The Israeli embassy said, Spokesman Isaac Bar-Moshe told the Associated Press Ambassador Moshe Sasson made the request at a meeting with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. The shooting near the Sinai border occurred on Oct. 5. Cairo said an Egyptian policeman went berserk and shot at a group of Israeli tourists, killing seven and wounding two.

U.S. panel okays \$14.8b aid bill

WASHINGTON (R) — A key U.S. Senate panel has approved a \$14.8 billion foreign aid bill for 1986 that provides a new major aid initiative for Israel but deletes a proposed additional \$85 million for Egypt. The vote by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations demonstrated once again the strength of the pro-Israel lobby. Moderate senators prevented significant cuts in aid to Egypt which had been advocated by lawmakers upset with Cairo's handling of the Achille Lauro cruise ship hijacking.

INSIDE

- * Witness reveals U.S. planned, financed Fatah airlift, page 2
- * Shopowners complain over new interchanges, officials promise to solve problems, page 3
- * Fu the moment, U.S. is departing from earlier trends, page 4
- * Tackling the pirates who produce sour notes, page 5
- * Lauda set to retire after Adelaide race, page 6
- * Major airlines expect 1985 to be the worst year in history, page 7
- * China implements compulsory conscription, page 8

Jordan calls for Arab support of projects in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday called on the Arab countries to support industrial schemes in the occupied Arab territories and help the Palestinian residents to foil Israel's attempts of linking that territory's economy with its own.

Establishing a strong industrial sector in the Arab territories under the Israeli occupation should be part of an all-out effort on the part of Arab countries to preserve the Arab identity and safeguard the Palestinian people's interests and rights, Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince was addressing the opening session of the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) board meeting which is attended by industry ministers from 21 Arab countries.

The Crown Prince, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein, said the meeting comes at a time of difficult economic and political circumstances for the Arab Nation, which is now facing increasing challenges in its drive to develop its cultural, social and economic fields.

Following are excerpts of Prince Hassan's speech at the opening

session: "I welcome you all to Jordan and convey to you greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and wishes for success in achieving your aspired goals.

"This sixth meeting of the AOID is being held at a time when the Arab Nation is passing through very critical circumstances as it strives to realise development in cultural, economic and social fields in the face of various challenges. This stage requires from Arab countries intensified efforts at all levels so that the Arab Nation can fulfil its higher aspirations and achieve its goals and can ensure security for all Arab citizens and safeguard higher national interests.

"The Arab leaders have on several occasions emphasised the need for joint Arab economic efforts to be carried out for clear and well-planned economic endeavours to be made and inter-

Arab relations to be bolstered. This gathering brings to mind the Arab summit meeting held in Amman in 1980 when Arab leaders passed important resolutions that served as a basis for joint Arab action. We hope that Arab countries will take steps towards implementing those resolutions which reflected the Arab leaders' full realisation of the vital importance of Arab economic security as a basic component of the overall Arab Nation's security.

"At present, the Arab World has only light industries which could not be relied on indefinitely to help a comprehensive economic development. Also, total Arab investments in this industry did not exceed 8.3 per cent of total investments in 1983, down from 9.3 per cent in 1972, which indicates that no real transformation has been made in promoting Arab industry, although some Arab countries made very significant successes in the industrial sector over the last 10 years. Therefore it has become incumbent on us to find a way of rectifying this imbalance and concentrate more on a comprehensive industrial development.

"Cooperation among Arab states in industry-related affairs

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli forces demolish three Palestinian homes in Hebron

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Israeli authorities have demolished three homes belonging to Arab citizens in Hebron on the occupied West Bank, contending that the homes were built without prior licence.

In Nablus, the Chamber of Commerce issued a statement on Wednesday denying a report by Israeli Radio and television that Israeli-Arab consultations are going on for setting up a special committee to manage Nablus's municipal affairs.

Reports reaching here also said that the Israeli authorities intend to set up a new settlement on Arab land in the occupied Gaza Strip.

According to the reports, Israeli bulldozers have been at work over the past two days paving ground for the settlement on a 1,230 dunam plot, close to the Palestinian refugee camp of Al Nusairat near the city of Gaza.

U.N. panel meets

The United Nations political committee meanwhile discussed Israel's human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories.

Addressing the committee, Jordan's representative at the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, said Israel was employing "all its military and economic power to make it impossible for the Palestinians to continue living in their homeland, and to force them to leave."

Mr. Riad Mansour, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said that Israel continues to bar U.N. missions from entering the occupied territories to investigate the conditions there.

Israel employs an "iron fist" policy in dealing with the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, Mr. Mansour said.

He said Israel has been launching campaigns of terror against the Palestinian population and denying the Palestinians their basic human rights and trying by every possible means to obliterate Arab identity.

In the West Bank, Palestinians and progressive Israelis have launched a campaign to stop the occupation forces from deporting four Palestinians accused of subversive political activity.

East Jerusalem lawyer Usama Awad told a news conference on Tuesday that the laws for deporting the four were once applied against Jews in Palestine under British mandate.

"When these laws were used by the British against the Jews, the men who now rule Israel said the legislation was inspired by the Nazis," he said.

Gemayel seeks details of militia pact

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel on Wednesday said former Foreign Minister Elie Salem to Damascus where he had talks with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Beirut Radio said.

Syrian sources in Damascus said Mr. Salem was seeking details of a secret agreement reached on Saturday by three major Lebanese militias to end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

Beirut Radio said Mr. Salem briefed Mr. Khaddam on Mr. Gemayel's visit last week to the United Nations in New York and talks held there with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Gemayel played no part in the month-long talks between the militias, which were said to have produced a draft accord on reforms that would deprive Lebanon's Christian minority of its dominant share in government.

Political sources say Mr. Gemayel has reservations on reported proposals to reduce the power of the Christian-held presidency.

In a show of confidence in the peace effort, the pro-Syrian Arab Baath Party on Tuesday quit the western side of Beirut's "green line" battlefield.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday attends the opening session of a meeting of 21 Arab industry ministers in Amman. The Crown Prince, deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, inaugurated the meeting with a keynote address (Petra photo).

Jordan, PLO remain committed to Feb. 11 accord — Hani Al Hassan

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two days of intensive talks between the Jordanian government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership have succeeded in normalising Jordanian-Palestinian relations and resulted in both sides reaffirming their commitment to the Feb. 11 accord, according to a senior PLO official.

Mr. Hani Al Hassan, a senior political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said on Wednesday that talks between Jordan and the PLO on Monday and Tuesday "have resulted in normalising (strained) relations between the two sides on the basis of the Feb. 11 accord to which both sides have reaffirmed commitment."

Mr. Hassan spoke to the Jordan Times shortly before Mr. Arafat left Amman following his three-day visit, in which he met with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials. Mr. Hassan was a member of the Palestinian team who held talks with the King on Monday and the Prime Minister, Mr. Zaid Rifai, and other

senior government officials on Tuesday.

The meeting between the King and Mr. Arafat was the first since the killing of three Israelis in Larnaca on Sept. 25, the Israeli raid on the Tunis headquarters of the PLO on Oct. 1, the hijacking of the Achille Lauro by four Palestinians and the collapse of a scheduled meeting between the British government and two senior PLO officials in London on Oct. 14.

The King had said that these incidents caused a setback to the peace process and that he planned to reassess the situation with the PLO leadership.

According to sources close to the talks, Jordan and the PLO have discussed in detail the implications of last month's developments and focused on the hijacking of the Achille Lauro and its negative impact on joint Jordanian-Palestinian political moves to solve the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Hassan, who described the hijacking of the Achille Lauro to the Jordan Times as "a political massacre," said that the PLO "understood the Jordanian gov-

ernment's reaction" to it and agreed with its assessment of the negative impact of the incident.

Mr. Hassan revealed that he had met with senior Jordanian officials soon after the incident, directly after the King's return from London on Oct. 25, and conveyed to them the PLO's position on the latest developments.

These meetings were followed by a meeting between Mr. Khaled Al Hassan, Hani's brother, and the King. The latter meeting paved the way for Mr. Arafat's arrival and talks here.

According to Mr. Hassan, the Jordanian government at the beginning was "very dissatisfied" with these negative developments, "particularly with the Achille Lauro."

But following the preliminary meetings between the Hassan brothers and the Jordanian government, "things became clearer to both sides, and by the time Mr. Arafat arrived in Amman last Monday, the stage was set for a friendly atmosphere."

"Objective talks between Jordan and the PLO followed," Mr.

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan offers to share 'Star Wars' with Soviets

LONDON (R) — President Reagan offered on Wednesday to share space defence technology from his "Star Wars" programme with the Soviet Union in return for a mutual reduction of nuclear arms.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Mr. Reagan said: "What would be better than if the two great superpowers, the two who have the great arsenals, both of us sat there with defensive weapons that ensured our safety against the nuclear weapons and both of us eliminated arms."

Asked if he would consider sharing technology from his strategic defence initiative (SDI) to produce a space-based anti-nuclear defensive system if there were mutual arms reductions, Mr. Reagan replied: "Why not? And I think this is something to be discussed at the summit."

U.S. president is 'ready' to violate international law, page 2

Heseltine, Shultz reach broad accord on British role in SDI

BRUSSELS (R) — Britain and the United States reached an outline agreement on Wednesday on terms for British participation in President Reagan's "Star Wars" space defence research programme, British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine said.

He told reporters after a 75-minute meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger that the accord would now be submitted to the two governments for final approval.

It would make Britain the first ally to conclude a formal participation agreement.

Mr. Heseltine made clear Mr. Weinberger could not and had not given a guarantee that Britain would receive the approximately \$1.5 billion share of the programme which it had requested.

But he said arrangements agreed on Wednesday should ensure that British firms received work of that order of magnitude.

Iraqi jets continue assaults on Iranian oil industry

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq said its warplanes on Wednesday raided two Iranian oil fields in the vicinity of the Kharg Island terminal as it pursued its two-month-old attempt to cut off Iranian oil exports.

The raids were carried out at 12:50 p.m. against the offshore oil fields of Ardesheir and Cyrus in the northern part of the Gulf waterway, according to the Iraqi News Agency.

Baghdad-based oil executives believe the repeated Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil facilities aim at preventing the Tehran government from developing alternative outlets to its Kharg Island terminal which has been under almost daily Iraqi air raids since Aug. 15.

Iraqi planes have also hit Iran itself, the main outlet for Iran's crude exports, 32 times since Aug. 15, in a bid to cut off the oil revenues needed to finance Tehran's war effort.

Oil industry sources elsewhere in the Gulf reported disruption to Iranian oil shipments as a result of a low-level attack on Sept. 19 which damaged pipelines and other installations, but say exports have since returned to normal.

Arafat expected in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected in Cairo soon following a visit by two of his aides and the speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to ease strains in Egypt's ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Osama Baz was quoted in a magazine interview published on Wednesday as saying Egypt had been in contact with Mr. Arafat this week and the PLO chairman would arrive in Cairo in the next few days.

Two top officials of Mr. Arafat's Fatah, the main PLO command group, arrived here Tuesday night for talks aimed at healing rifts over the hijack of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro earlier this month, sources close to the government said.

PNC speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh, Mahmoud Abbas, a PLO Executive Committee member, and Hail Abdul Fattah were expected to meet Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid during their visit, the sources said.

Egyptian officials were angered by reported criticism of Egypt's handling of the Achille Lauro crisis, including a statement attributed to Fatah number two Salah Khalaf that the PLO did not want the Palestinian hijackers sent to Tunis.

The hijackers now face trial in Italy after U.S. warplanes hijacked and forced an Egyptian airliner taking them to Tunis for trial by the PLO to land in Sicily.

President Mubarak, meanwhile, said Mr. Arafat had a vital role to play in the search for a Middle East settlement.

Mr. Mubarak's comments to visiting journalists on Tuesday indicated he felt Mr. Arafat was the only realistic Palestinian leader in efforts to revive the Middle East peace process.

The Palestinians could not be represented in eventual peace talks with Israel only by King Hussein, Mr. Mubarak said.

Asked about Mr. Arafat's ability to control PLO factions, the Egyptian leader said: "Arafat is the leader accepted by all the PLO... we have still to make full use of him in order to reach peace."

Mr. Mubarak said: "He (King Hussein) will never agree to negotiate with Israel without PLO participation. He knows the countries in the region will criticise him unanimously if he tries to do so."

Mr. Muharak, who met King Hussein in Amman this week, said he agreed that peace talks between Israel and Jordan had to include Mr. Arafat.

"I believe that a Palestinian delegation to peace talks must include strong and influential elements so that the negotiations will yield results," Mr. Mubarak said.

Despite a split in the PLO, "we must still use Arafat to attain a peace settlement," Mr. Mubarak said.

He denied reports Egypt would allow the PLO to set up a command post in Cairo following an Israeli air raid Oct. 1 on the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Mr. Mubarak said he hopes to take the chill off relations between Israel and his country. Egypt withdrew its ambassador from Tel Aviv in September 1982 after Israel invaded Lebanon.

He said he was in contact with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and called him "a flexible man and a believer in peace."

Baz: Egypt expects more from U.S. to improve ties, page 2

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Baz: Egypt expects more from U.S. to improve ties

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt expects further steps from the United States to improve relations strained by the U.S. interception of an Egyptian plane carrying four Palestinian ship hijackers, a top aide to President Hosni Mubarak says.

Osama Al Baz, director of Mr. Mubarak's political affairs office, told the state-owned weekly magazine Al-Mussawar he considers U.S. public and private expressions of regret over diversion of the plane to Italy an apology. But he said it's not enough.

Mr. Baz spoke in an interview to be published Thursday. The Associated Press obtained an advance copy.

U.S. warplanes on Oct. 10 intercepted the Egyptian Boeing 737 carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro and forced it to land at a military base in Sicily.

The plane also carried Mohammed Abbas, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee, who Washington claims massacred the Achille Lauro episode, in which an elderly American invalid was killed. Italy arrested the hijackers but allowed Mr. Abbas to leave the country despite an American warrant for his arrest.

The incident sparked the worst

crisis in U.S.-Egyptian relations in more than a decade, and Mr. Mubarak demanded an apology "to all the Egyptian people."

"President Ronald Reagan said publicly he will not apologise, but he was able to tell us he regretted what happened and this is an apology," Mr. Baz said.

Mr. Baz referred to a letter to Mr. Mubarak in which Mr. Reagan "expressed his regret." He also cited a Cairo visit by Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, who met with Mr. Mubarak and issued a statement saying: "We very much regret that developments took the course that they did."

"And yet I believe that we still need further steps from the American side to put relations back on the right course," Mr. Baz told the magazine. "Let us give them time to do so."

"Mr. Baz ruled out increased U.S. aid as a compensatory measure, saying "we do not sell our dignity or barter it for aid."

He said one step could be U.S. movement to push forward the

Arab-Israeli peace process. "There are various alternatives that we have explained to the American side," he said without elaboration.

Egypt has been receiving more than \$2 billion in U.S. economic and military aid annually since conclusion of the 1979 American-mediated peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The United States has been trying to expand Arab-Israeli peace since.

Mr. Baz also disclosed that Egypt told the United States that the diverted Egyptian plane landed in Sicily that Mr. Abbas would not be handed over to the Americans and that "we would resist this with arms."

The Egyptian plane carried about 15 Egyptian security men who presumably were armed. Reports from Italy's capital Rome spoke of a confrontation between U.S. and Italian soldiers at the Sicily base over who was to take custody of the hijackers.

Mr. Abbas remained aboard the plane after the Italians arrested the hijackers, and the aircraft later flew to Rome where he was freed and flown to Yugoslavia.

Termining the interception "a hostile and illegal act," Mr. Baz said: "President Mubarak has made one fundamental point clear: The fact that the United States is a friend and a country that

gives us aid or plays a special role in Middle East peace-making does not mean that we can accept from it what we do not accept from others.

"And yet I say that the incident may not mar future Egyptian-American relations if the United States learns this lesson and begins to deal with Egypt on this basis."

He described the Cairo-Washington relationship as "not special but one of strong friendship and cooperation in many fields."

"Sound policy requires us to contain the effects of a certain act within a certain framework," he said. The Palestinians who pirated the Achille Lauro on Oct. 9 "served Israeli interests" because their action "overshadowed" Israel's Oct. 1 air attack on the PLO headquarters in Tunis and "got Israel off the hook."

He said the two actions were part of attempts to exclude the PLO from all Middle East peace efforts, and "we should strongly resist this."

He charged that both Israel and the United States want to exclude the PLO. "We consider this wrong and dangerous," he said, "because there is no other Palestine party capable of movement (toward peace)."

New Murphy advisor is career diplomat

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The State Department announced Oct. 29 that Secretary Shultz has appointed Ambassador Walter Cluverius as a senior advisor to Richard Murphy, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, to help in the U.S. effort to advance the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Cluverius is now serving as the American consul general in Jerusalem. He will relinquish that position to assume his new responsibilities. Secretary Shultz has appointed Morris Draper to succeed Mr. Cluverius in Jerusalem.

Mr. Cluverius has been an officer in the foreign service of the United States since 1967. Prior to assuming his duties in Jerusalem in July 1983, he served as deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. He served as political adviser and deputy to the president's Middle East envoys during 1980-1983, and as director of the office for Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq during 1978-1980. Concurrently, he served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the negotiations between Egypt, Israel and the United States.

During 1976-1978, Mr. Cluverius was ambassador of the United States to Bahrain. Mr. Cluverius has served as well in the State Department as deputy director of the office of Israel and Arab-Israeli affairs, 1973-1976, and in the embassies of the United States in Jeddah and Tel Aviv.

Ambassador Cluverius was born in the state of Massachusetts in 1934; he was educated at Northwestern and Indiana Universities. He and his wife, Judith, have two children.

Morris Draper, a career foreign service officer who will replace Mr. Cluverius, served as deputy for Lebanon negotiations, under Ambassador Philip Habib. Before that, he was deputy assistant secretary of the state in the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, and served in Amman, Jeddah, and Singapore. Mr. Draper is a member of the Senior Foreign Service and holds the rank of career minister. He is a recipient of the president's distinguished service award.

Witness reveals U.S. planned, financed Falasha airlift to Israel

KHARTOUM (AP) — A former security officer told investigators the United States planned and financed the smuggling of Ethiopian Jews to Israel through Sudan, a prosecution witness in the trial of former Vice President Omar Al Tayeb has testified.

Police Col. Amin Abbas testified on Tuesday that Lt.-Col. Musa Ismail, a security officer originally charged in the case, said he participated in the clandestine operation under orders from Tayeb.

Tayeb, who headed ousted President Jaafar Numeiri's now-disbanded State Security Service, is charged with high treason, violating the boycott-of-Israel law and seven other counts that could send him to the gallows on conviction.

Ismail and three other security officers were charged with him but turned state's evidence on promise of pardons by the military government that took over from Numeiri after an April 6 coup.

More than 10,000 Ethiopian Jews, called Falashas, were airlifted to Israel from Sudanese famine camps over a period of several months in late 1984 and early this year. Arab governments strongly condemned the operation when it became known, claiming it provided manpower for Israel's armed forces to use against the

Arabs.

According to Col. Abbas, this is the story Ismail told:

Tayeb summoned him and said Numeiri had ordered "refugees" to be transported out of Sudan in coordination with the Americans. Ismail and Maj.-Gen. Al Fathi Al Gali then met at the U.S. embassy in Khartoum with an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the embassy's refugee officer "to work out a plan" for the operation. He identified them as Daniel Martin and Jerry Weaver.

Since Tayeb had told him all expenses were to be paid by the Americans, he received 32,000 Sudanese pounds (\$12,800) to charter buses for carrying Falashas from eastern Sudan to Khartoum, from where some U.S. aircraft took off.

Later, Col. Musa travelled to Washington with Tayeb and met with CIA and U.S. Air Force officers. At the meeting, Tayeb presented a plan for the airlift.

The U.S. embassy has made no statement on the trial or the allegations of U.S. involvement since hearings began on Saturday.

In his testimony, Col. Abbas also quoted from statements by two of the other security officers who agreed to testify for the prosecution, Lt.-Col. Daniel Deng and Maj. Mohammad Fuad Bandar.

He said Col. Deng told investigators his job was to secure the tiny Al Azazi air strip in eastern Sudan for airlift planes, which arrived with small quantities of relief supplies. Col. Abbas said Col. Deng reported that 15 armed American soldiers stepped off the first plane to safeguard the operation.

In his statement, Maj. Bandar reportedly said he was ordered by Ismail to supervise the transportation of Falashas from Twawa Refugee Camp in eastern Sudan to Khartoum.

In another development, Sudan's newly legalised Communist Party called Wednesday for the expulsion of U.S. Ambassador Alexander Hume Hora and other American diplomats alleged to have taken part in the airlift.

The party's newspaper, Al-Maidan, said in an editorial that testimony in the trial made the U.S. role clear.

While not suggesting a break in relations, it said, "at least we call for the expulsion of the present ambassador who took part in the operation together with all embassy staff whose names were mentioned by the defendants in the trial."

Long banned by the pro-American Numeiri, the Communists and all other political parties have been allowed to function by the new government.

U.S. president 'ready' to violate international law again 'if needed'

LONDON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan, in an interview broadcast on Wednesday, said he was ready to violate international law if necessary in the fight against "terrorism."

Mr. Reagan insisted the United States did not violate international law Oct. 11 when U.S. air force jets hijacked the Egyptian plane carrying four Palestinians who allegedly hijacked an Italian cruise liner and killed a disabled American passenger.

He was asked by BBC radio correspondent Brian Wilkifield if he would do it again, even if the action violated international law.

"Well actually we didn't violate international law," Mr. Reagan contended. "It would be a hypothetical question. We just have to judge each case on its own."

Wilkifield said, "but if it was necessary (to violate international law) I take it you would."

Mr. Reagan answered: "Yes. The president said: 'We felt we had no choice in the matter... if we're going to prevent the terrorists to disappear into the rabbit warrens... in the Middle East... we felt we had to do it.'"

The affair strained relations with Egypt and Italy, but Mr. Reagan said: "I'm pleased to say now I think the flurry is over and that both Egypt and Italy want to continue the warm relationship."

Egypt called the U.S. action an act of piracy and thousands of anti-American demonstrators staged protests in Cairo streets. A new public opinion poll showed on Wednesday that strong support for President Reagan's

handling of the Achille Lauro ship hijacking raised U.S. public approval of his foreign affairs conduct to the highest point in four years.

The ABC News/Washington Post poll found 80 per cent approval for Mr. Reagan's order for U.S. warplanes to hijack and force the Egyptian airliner to land in Sicily so the ship hijackers aboard could be captured and prosecuted.

Only 17 per cent disapproved of Mr. Reagan's action while 73 per cent disapproved of Egypt's handling of the affair and 15 per cent approved.

Sixty two per cent of the 1,506 men and women surveyed by telephone two weeks after the hijacking said they approved of Mr. Reagan's handling of foreign affairs overall, while 32 per cent disapproved.

Israeli collaborator hanged in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A Muslim militia group hanged a man accused of collaborating with Israeli troops during their occupation of the South Lebanese city of Sidon.

Witnesses said Mahmoud Habbal, known as "the captain," was executed at dawn in the city centre by the "Nasserite Peoples Organisation."

A placard around his neck said: "This is the penalty of whoever deals with Israel." It was believed to be the first time a Lebanese militia had used hanging as a means of execution.

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RADIO JORDAN 835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsday	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * Exhibition entitled "From Golegob to Electronics" at the Goethe Institute. Open to public from Oct. 27 to Nov. 2 excluding Fridays. * The first painting exhibition by artist Ibrahim Hiyasat at the Housing Bank Complex (until Nov. 15). FILM * "A French film entitled 'Une affaire d'honneur' at the Royal Cultural Centre." VIDEO * "A video on AIDS at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, to be followed by the CLO Awards at the American Centre." CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre Tel. 644371 British Council Tel. 641520 British Council Tel. 636147-8 French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009 Goethe Institute Tel. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 642049 Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 651195 Hays Arts Centre Tel. 667181 Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793 Y.W.C.A. Tel. 636111 American Municipal Library Tel. 843555 University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jericho (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Crusader Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzehab, Jabal Leuwidheh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Lions Palestine Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410 CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Leuwidheh. 637440 De la Sainte Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Haseini. 661757 Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 623541 Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. 678906 Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 775261 St. Nicholas Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751 Armenian International Church (Interdenominational) at Sheenat, 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman. 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Sami). Tel. 811295 Rainbow Congregation (Interdenominational) Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer. Jabal Amman. Tel. 663249. PRAYER TIMES 04:20 Fajr 05:51 Sunrise 11:28 Dhuhr 14:27 Asr 16:30 Maghrib 18:12 Isha	
FOR FRIDAY. 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 09:00 Morning Show 09:30 News Summary 10:00 News Summary 10:30 News Summary 11:00 News Summary 11:30 News Summary 12:00 News Summary 12:30 News Summary 13:00 News Summary 13:30 News Summary 14:00 News Summary 14:30 News Summary 15:00 News Summary 15:30 News Summary 16:00 News Summary 16:30 News Summary 17:00 News Summary 17:30 News Summary 18:00 News Summary 18:30 News Summary 19:00 News Summary 19:30 News Summary 20:00 News Summary 20:30 News Summary 21:00 News Summary	
BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz 06:00 Newsday 06:30 Country Style 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 The World Today 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Country Style 08:45 Financial News 08:55 Reflections 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 The World Today 10:00 Newsday 10:30 Country Style 10:45 Financial News 10:55 Reflections 11:00 World News 11:09 24 Hours: News Summary 11:30 The World Today 12:00 Newsday 12:30 Country Style 12:45 Financial News 12:55 Reflections 13:00 World News 13:09 24 Hours: News Summary 13:30 The World Today 14:00 Newsday 14:30 Country Style 14:45 Financial News 14:55 Reflections 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 The World Today 16:00 Newsday 16:30 Country Style 16:45 Financial News 16:55 Reflections 17:00 World News 17:09 24 Hours: News Summary 17:30 The World Today 18:00 Newsday 18:30 Country Style 18:45 Financial News 18:55 Reflections 19:00 World News 19:09 24 Hours: News Summary 19:30 The World Today 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Country Style 20:45 Financial News 20:55 Reflections 21:00 World News 21:09 24 Hours: News Summary 21:30 The World Today 22:00 Newsday 22:30 Country Style 22:45 Financial News 22:55 Reflections 23:00 World News 23:09 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 The World Today 24:00 Newsday	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
JUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 09:15 Agaba (RJ) 09:20 Kuwait (RJ) 09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (RJ) 09:45 Jeddah (RJ) 09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ) 10:05 Cairo (MS) 10:10 Kuwait (RJ) 10:15 Istanbul (TG) 10:20 Muscat, Oman (RJ) 10:25 Baghdad (IA) 10:30 Cairo (RJ) 10:35 London, Belgrade (RJ) 10:40 Athens (RJ) 10:45 Amsterdam, Larnaca (RJ) 10:50 Athens, Damascus (RJ) 10:55 Zurich, Larnaca (RJ) 11:00 London, Baghdad (RJ) 11:05 Baghdad (RJ) DEPARTURES 06:20 Frankfurt (LH) 07:00 Agaba (RJ) 07:00 Beirut (MEA) 07:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 07:00 Vienna, New York (LX) 07:10 Istanbul (TG) 07:15 Athens (RJ) 07:20 Paris, London (RJ) 07:25 Frankfurt, Brussels (LX) 07:30 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV) 07:35 Cairo (RJ) 07:40 Cairo (MS) 07:45 Kuwait (RJ) 07:50 Bahrain (RJ) 07:55 Baghdad (IA) 08:00 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 08:05 Kuwait (RJ) 08:10 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 08:15 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 08:20 Cairo (RJ) 08:25 Doha, Muscat (RJ) 08:30 Baghdad (RJ) 08:35 Jeddah (RJ) 08:40 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 08:45 London (BA)	
MARITIME TRAFFIC Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: — Hual Lixia — Mola Amia Kavar and Soss Company. Tel: 63234-9 at your service. WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. A slight increase in temperature is expected, with southeasterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea. Low/high temperature in deg. C. Amman 24, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent. MONEY EXCHANGE Wednesday rates Local sell-off rates in Jds Bahraini dinar 998.5/1008.5 Dutch guilder 126.5/127.5 Egyptian pound 22.5/23.0 French franc 47/47.4 Iraqi dinar 361.5/366 Japanese yen (for 100) 177/178.4 Kuwaiti dinar 128.0/129.0 Lebanese lira 21.7/22.5 Omani rial 1092.5/1100 Saudi riyal 105.5/104 Swedish crown 47.4/48 Swiss franc 174.5/175.9 Syrian lira 29.5/30.5 UAE dirham 102.5/103.2 U.K. sterling pound 539.4/543.7 U.S. dollar 374.9/378 W. German mark 143.2/144.3	
JUEEN ALIA INT'L AIRPORT ARRIVALS 09:15 Agaba (RJ) 09:20 Kuwait (RJ)	
About Britain 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Business Matters 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 John Arlott's Poetry Book 12:00 News Summary: Keep it in the Family 12:15 Merchant Navy Programme 12:30 Good Friday Medley 12:50 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 In the Mountains 13:20 A Letter from Northern Ireland 13:25 Letter from Northern Ireland 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Newsday 14:15 Jazz for the Aching 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 Outlook: News Summary 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 The World Today 16:00 Newsday 16:30 Country Style 16:45 Financial News 16:55 Reflections 17:00 World News 17:09 24 Hours: News Summary 17:30 The World Today 18:00 Newsday 18:30 Country Style 18:45 Financial News 18:55 Reflections 19:00 World News 19:09 24 Hours: News Summary 19:30 The World Today 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Country Style 20:45 Financial News 20:55 Reflections 21:00 World News 21:09 24 Hours: News Summary 21:30 The World Today 22:00 Newsday 22:30 Country Style 22:45 Financial News 22:55 Reflections 23:00 World News 23:09 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 The World Today 24:00 Newsday	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman civil defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qusweish 770733
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 871222
First aid 630341
Blood bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 622090-3
Police rescue 192, 621111, 630141
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 896390/1
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints 771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5353060

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amm 6442816
Akil Maternity, J. Amman 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642502
Mallas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Sheenat 6641714
Sheenat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845/65
Al-Musashir Hospital 657272/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661646
Inlital, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/226
Army, Madaba 891611/5

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jameel Maraga 776149
Dr. Farouk Noor 786680
Nairook pharmacy 623671
Khairi pharmacy 788653
Nairook pharmacy 871222
Mansour's pharmacy 655489
Ghassan pharmacy 874977
Al Attar pharmacy 777172

TAXIS

Hussein taxi 721776
Khairoun taxi 664888
Bassam taxi 811057
Ahit taxi 621127
Khairoun taxi 641541
Meishour taxi 625021

IRBID:

Dr. Shebli Al Zagh 240400

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi (—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666412
Price complaints 661176
Telephone Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 11
Repair service 17

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 180 / 150
Banana 300 / 260
Beans (Mammar) 250 / 220
Beans (local) 500 / 400
Cabbage 170 / 140
Carrot (yellow) 160 / 120
Cauliflower 240 / 200
Cucumber 150 / 100
Cucumber (small) 240 / 200
Eggplant (large) 120 / 90
Eggplant (small) 200 / 150
Garlic 320 / 250
Grapes (white) 200 / 150
Juvav 200 / 150
Lemon 170 / 120
Mallow 150 / 100

Marrow (large) 250 / 200
Marrow (small) 340 / 300
Olive (green) 440 / 400
Onion (dry) 160 / 120
Okra 380 / 300
Orange (Abu surra) 260 / 200
Orange (Shammout) 180 / 150
Parsley 70 / 70
Pomegranates 350 / 250
Peas 550 / 500
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 200
Pepper (hot) 240 / 200
Potatoes 100 / 70
Radishes 240 / 200
Spinach 270 / 200
Tomatoes 200 / 150
Dates 200 / 150

FOR FRIDAY.

09:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:40 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:50 Muscat, Dhahran (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:20 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (MS)
12:15 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
13:25 Jeddah (RJ)
15:19 Kuwait (RJ)
16:15 Baghdad (IA)
17:00 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)

17:30 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:40 Athens (RJ)
17:50 London, Paris (RJ)
18:20 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
20:25 Athens (OA)
21:50 Frankfurt (LF)
00:25 Baghdad (RJ)

06:40 Larnaca, Amsterdam (KLM)
06:50 Athens (OA)
07:00 Athens (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (R)
11:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (R)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:05 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Istanbul (RJ)
13:15 Doha, Sharjah, Muscat (GF)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:35 Kuwait (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (SV)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
19:40 Doha (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:00 Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)

Storekeepers, businesses suffer heavily from road diversions; Officials promise to resolve 'inconveniences to the public'

Traders petition Housing Bank ■ Taxi drivers call for higher fares ■ Municipality replies to public complaints

By Rana Sabagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In addition to causing bottle necks and public confusion, construction work on the Ministry of Interior Circle and the Sports City interchanges has seriously affected more than 70 business establishments, two international hotels, three petrol stations and other enterprises which happen to fall within two commercial districts sealed off from traffic.

Angry business owners claim that over the past 12 days, their business has dropped by 50 per cent and in some cases by up to 90 per cent and they question the fate of their business during the coming 21 months, which is the estimated period for the completion of these intersections.

Officials at the Amman Transport Development Project (ATDP) argue that any huge intersection project, as "massive" as this, will directly or indirectly affect some people at the expense of the other 750,000 Jordanian citizens who will benefit from these intersections.

Still others, such as head of the Traffic Engineering Department at the Amman Municipality Ahmad Al Armouti, contend that the municipality has gone out of its way to help solve as many public complaints as possible. Mr. Armouti adds: "These irritations will soon disappear after the public gets used to the new road diversions and detours. Since no road has been totally blocked and all detours take people to all places."

Letter of protest

Forty proprietors of stores at the Housing Bank commercial complex, located on Jueen Noor Street, have sent a protest note to the Housing Bank which owns the complex, urging them to find a solution to the situation to avert store owners being unable to repay their financial commitments to the bank and to others. The petition, which was signed by 40 store owners, said: "Our investment expectations are dashed, we look for your help and we hope that you can deal with this drastic situation as soon as possible."

The petition adds: "We are now without any customers and we are deeply frustrated to see the complex ceasing to exist due to these new road diversions, which have taken the traffic away from the vicinity of the centre. We have rented our stores and paid the Housing Bank key money and our annual rent in advance hoping that our investment in this complex will bear fruit."

Cafe De Roi employee Tal'at Ismail says that the cafe's annual rent is JD 12,000 and that the number of customers has dropped by 75 per cent in the last 12 days. "Those who are catering for are mainly the employees working in the complex, and we shall be taking our salaries from the cafe's invested capital which has not yet been repaid," Mr. Ismail says. "If the situation continues, we shall lose our jobs and become unemployed."

Um Kulthum Issawi, who is an employee at a bookshop in the complex, says that in the regular days sales were low but now they have dropped to an uneconomical level. "We will be forced to close the bookshop within three months if the situation is unresolved," she says.

Store owners in the complex interviewed by the Jordan Times accuse the Housing Bank of having "cheated them" when they rented their stores since the bank knew in advance about the new road diversions.

They also suggest that a dirt route linking Jueen Noor Street with King Hussein Street via the professional complex building should be paved and asphalted and that more parking lots should be allocated for visitors to the complex.

Khouri answers back

Mr. Zuhair Khouri, director general of the Housing Bank and chairman of the bank's board of directors, defends the bank's stand vis-a-vis his renters' accusations. He says: "The main road to this complex has always been, from behind the building. Even when there was a lot of traffic, cars were never allowed to stop in front of the complex for more than five minutes."

Mr. Khouri, who is aware of the dangerous economic situation of store owners in the complex, believes that even with the detours, all roads leading to the complex are open. "It is very easy to get to and I believe that with such quiet surroundings and no busy traffic, visitors to the complex will find shopping facilities more convenient," he says.

"There are three parking lots at the customers disposal. Queen Noor Street which leads to the

front entrance has been reopened and provides free parking space and there should be no problems whatsoever hindering people from coming to the complex," Mr. Khouri adds.

Mr. Khouri further explains that Jordanians have known about these intersections for more than three years, but adds that nobody really knew the alternative routes. "It was only 10 days ago that all of us were confronted with the new traffic situation," he says.

The Housing Bank director general ruled out renters' expectations that the bank might consider lowering the store rents for the coming two years. "We have done a lot of creative advertisements and publicity to attract shoppers. Why should we reduce our rents since the rate of return for our invested capital in this complex is less than 2 per cent annually?" Mr. Khouri says.

Mr. Majed Al Nimri, who is head of the ATDP, also says that no roads leading to the complex are blocked and that the main entrance to this complex has always been from behind the centre. To the north of the Housing Bank centre, lies another commercial complex, the Ramallah Centre, which is located on the east corner of the Interior Ministry Circle. This centre is also in a

very critical situation since all roads leading to it are totally sealed off to traffic.

Second petition

Again, renters at the Ramallah Centre have sent a petition to Amman Municipality and to Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, who returned Tuesday from a seven-day official trip to the People's Republic of China.

In their petition to the mayor they said: "We will sustain heavy losses as a result of the two-year period needed for completing these interchanges. We hope that you will seriously examine our case since our stores are the main source of our families' and employees' income."

The petition, which was signed by 32 business establishments, doctors and lawyers and insurance companies, suggested that a special committee should be set up to study their case and to look into the prospect of offering compensation for losses.

They advocate that compensation for their losses could be done through exempting their stores from trade licence fees and fees for sign posts until the end of the construction work.

The store renters also requested the Amman Municipality to allocate a parking place on municipality-owned land near the Commodore cafeteria. They suggest that this land should be paved and asphalted and provided with an entrance from the side of Al Amal Maternity Hospital. They also point out that there is a piece of land next to Soufan stores, which could be paved and used for the centre's customers.

Hard hit hotel

The Regency Palace Hotel, which opened in 1980 and which is located on Queen Alia Street linking the Ministry of Interior Circle and the Sports City interchanges, is also facing a crisis similar to the Ramallah Centre and the Housing Bank complex.

The hotel's manager Said Sawalha contends that in the past 12 days the number of walk-in-guests dropped by 25 per cent. Mr. Sawalha further says that the food and beverages sales have dropped by 50 per cent. "I expect that in the summer of 1986, our booked guests and walk-in-guests will decline by 50 per cent, if not more," he says.

"Considering that the hotel is under heavy financial strains to meet its long-term loan repayments, we are now forced to move on a limping leg and to reconsider the whole loan process," Mr. Sawalha adds. "Our hotel was moving in the right direction until these catastrophic road diversions came into being," he says.

'Lack of explanatory signs'

What frustrates Mr. Sawalha even more is knowing that all the roads leading to the hotel are open, but he says people are hesitant to come because the road signs only say "detour," but do not explain the destinations thoroughly.

Mr. Sawalha suggests that Amman Municipality should increase the number of explanatory road signs and he said he would post signs leading to the hotel on his own expense.

But Mr. Armouti says that out of the 225 road signs posted recently, 25 per cent carry adequate explanatory information. "The Amman Municipality does not intend to post more signs," he says.

"The number of explanatory signs, posted on each major intersection are not misleading, but if business owners would like to post more explanatory road signs, this could be done at their own expense," Mr. Nimri stresses.

real construction, hotel guests might be disturbed.

Owner of the Duwar Al Dakhliah Petrol Station, Mr. Samir Haddadin, says that his station was among the other surrounding businesses which were severely hit by the project. Mr. Haddadin says that the station's daily business has declined by 92 per cent due to these road diversions. "Although the station has two roads leading to it, people and customers find difficulty in getting to my station," he says. "In the good old days, our main clients were the trucks and buses, but now it is only small cars which use our service," Mr. Haddadin adds.

Mr. Haddadin also feels worried about his business after the two years of construction is over since the municipality has ordered him to remove three of the stations' fuel pumps to provide space for the four-lane street which is to pass in front of his station. "When these three fuel pumps are removed, the main entrance to the station will be covered by a huge electricity transformer, which has been standing idle there for the past years," Mr. Haddadin says. He suggests that the transformer should be shifted to another area to make the station's entrance more visible.

Officials from the Jordan Electricity Authority were not available to comment on the possibility of removing the transformer during the four-months work on infrastructure.

Taxi drivers

Taxi drivers and taxi office owners have not been excluded from the numerous troubles these new routes and interchanges have caused. Grand Palace Hotel and Regency Palace Hotel taxi service manager Mahmoud Al Jaghbari

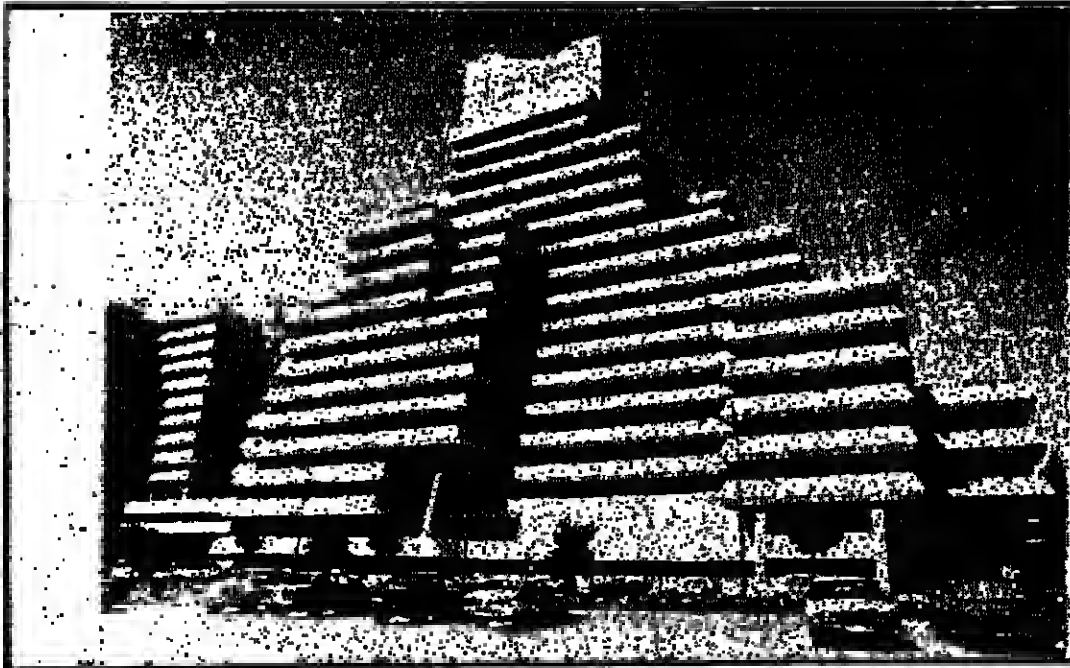
on these intersections. Mr. Nimri says he is positive that the situation of these commercial districts would be studied. "At the Ain-Al Ghazal intersection, we have considered allocating a six-metre parking place in front of all the commercial centres which happen to fall on this road," he points out.

Despite the fact that Ain Ghazal commercial districts faced heavy financial losses due to this project, "we exerted all our efforts to make life easier for this district," Mr. Nimri continues.

Shop owners at Ain Ghazal, the Interior Ministry Circle and Jueen Noor Street are questioning why workers are not working 24-hours a day in shifts. "Workers have done nothing since they massacred all these roads 12 days ago," said Mohammad Atti, a grocer in Ain Ghazal.

Again, Mr. Nimri says that Amman Municipality has allocated extra land adjacent to the works site to carry out the first phase of the projects which is the infrastructure. "We are working slowly in order to avoid any drastic mistakes while changing the old infrastructures with the new," he explains. "Once phase one is over, I guarantee that the work will be increased to two or three shifts, especially since the project will come into a more clear picture," Mr. Nimri adds.

Officials state that the Amman Municipality and all those involved in this two-year project are ready to solve as many of the inconveniences as possible. Officials at the same time call on all Jordanian citizens living near the construction sites to show "more cooperation and understanding as in the end, 750,000 citizens will benefit from the projects once they are completed."



Store keepers in the Housing Bank complex (pictured above) say that they are incurring huge losses as a result of road diversions around the Ministry of Interior Circle (J.T. file photo)

Damaging cables

What worries Mr. Sawalha is the possibility of accidents which might damage the water pipes, electricity cables or telephone lines while the construction process is underway. "Knowing the quick response of the concerned officials, I know that any repairs will take a long period of time and this could cause unprecedented damages to three international hotels, the Regency, the Grand Palace and the Marriott," he says.

But Mr. Nimri answers that the first phase of construction work, mainly to lay the electricity, water and sewerage and telephone lines, has been planned in a very professional way. "There are three sub-contractors which have been assigned by the three services authorities themselves to supervise works on the infrastructure," he says.

Mr. Sawalha also blames taxi drivers who work on the Queen Alia International Airport to Amman route for reducing the number of walk-in-guests. "They are governed by a fixed taxi fare from the airport to any hotel in Amman so it will be in their own interests to drop walk-in-guests at the nearest hotel, instead of having to pass through all these road diversions," he contends.

But Mr. Hailie Aguilier, general manager at the Marriott Hotel, says that the issue of taxi drivers dropping clients at the nearest hotel existed long before these new road diversions although he believes that these road diversions give the taxi drivers a pretext for not going to the hotels near the construction site.

The Marriott Hotel, which is located on Issam Al Ajlouni Street, and close to the interchanges work, has not faced any drop in its booked or walk-in-guests nor in its food and beverages sector, Mr. Aguilier says. "But this does not mean that the hotel's situation might not change in the coming months," he adds. Mr. Sawalha and Mr. Aguilier agree that once drillers and bulldozers start the

laments over the business saying "taxi fares have remained unchanged although our expenses have increased by 25 per cent." These extra expenses, which are a direct result of the extra distance we have to travel to get to and from the Regency Palace Hotel, are paid from our own profits, Mr. Jaghbari says.

In a column carried by the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab on Monday, the columnist wrote that 30 per cent of service drivers who work on the Sweileh-Amman route have left their jobs since they believed that they were paying an extra 25 per cent in expenses while the original fares remained unchanged. The columnist suggested that either the fare on this line should be increased or that the service cars should be exempted from paying income tax and licences or profession fees for the coming two years.

But officials at the Ministry of Transport ruled out the possibility of increasing the fares. "An increase would mean that a whole study on the side-effects of any future increase should be conducted," the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity says.

"If the ministry was to consider an increase, it should also study the distance from the original street and the nearest detour and it is impossible to do since the alternative roads are changing from day to day," the source adds. The source also said that any increase would harm low-income people using the service taxis.

But Mr. Nimri refutes the allegations that petrol expenses have increased due to the new diversions. He says that they have maintained a stable and standard pattern of consumption. "The new routes are always clear, there is rarely any traffic congestion which has reduced the car's consumption of fuel," Mr. Nimri says.

Asked whether the impact of the intersections project has been studied taking into consideration the future of all commercial complexes which happen to be located

King pays tribute to Indira Gandhi on anniversary of Indian premier's death

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has contributed to a volume of tributes to the late Indira Gandhi, former prime minister of India, who was assassinated on Oct. 31, 1984. The tributes from world leaders are being published in India on the first anniversary of Mrs. Gandhi's death today. Following is the text of the King's tribute to Mrs. Gandhi:

The late Indira Gandhi was a leader whose untimely departure was felt not only by the people of India but was a tremendous loss to the world at large. Her policies were rooted in the vision and humanity of the great Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, and reflected the diverse heritage of the civilisation of India.

She was a firm believer in the concept of unity-in-diversity of the Indian Federation. In seeking

to preserve this concept, she was made to make the ultimate sacrifice.

We, in the Non-Aligned Movement, were the beneficiaries of her wise counsel and vision. This was particularly so at the Seventh Summit held in New Delhi more than two years ago. Under her able chairmanship, she sought to foster the "oneness" of purpose linking the members of the movement in meeting the collective challenges they face. She sought to maximise the scope of co-operation and the spirit of conciliation for the benefit of the peoples of the movement as a whole.

We in the Arab World are indebted for the valuable support which the late prime minister unfailingly extended to the just causes of the Arab Nation. This was especially so in the case of the Palestinian people and their just political struggle to attain their legitimate rights.

On the world scene, she championed the cause of disarmament and worked tirelessly towards a more equitable international economic order. She emphasised time and again the principle of self-reliance as the most assured method of self-improvement for nations and individuals alike. She worked hard to promote the principle of the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

On a personal note, I was privileged to be among her friends and had difficulty in reconciling myself to the painful fact that this unique leader is no longer with us. I think that the best tribute that could be made to her memory is to continue her good work and uphold the noble principles and causes to which she dedicated her life.

Arab industry ministers review AOID activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab ministers of industry or their representatives taking part in the sixth meeting of the Arab Organisation of Industrial Development (AOID) held a closed meeting Wednesday to review issues connected with AOID activities.

Later an enlarged meeting grouping all the participants was held and addressed by Sudan's minister of industry who underlined the importance of cooperation among Arab countries to promote industrial development in cooperation with AOID. He said that the meeting will review feasibility studies of 22 pan-Arab projects which aim at achieving Arab economic integration.

Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals Subhi Yassia was later elected as chairman and made a speech commending the AOID for its endeavours.

Later the participants discussed a report submitted by the mee-

ting's preparatory committee, which covered AOID's relations with Arab and international organisations and future programmes.

Also discussed were topics related to AOID's seventh meeting and a training programme for Arab personnel in the electrical and petrochemical industries.

The meeting studied requests from Somalia and North Yemen for opening an AOID regional office in their region and a proposal for holding conferences to show solidarity with industries in the occupied Arab territories.

In an interview published in the

local press Wednesday, AOID Director General Hatem Abdul Rashid said that AOID, which was established in 1979 as an Arab League organisation, is designed to give impetus to Arab industrial integration and to help Arab countries carry out various industrial schemes.

AOID has prepared feasibility studies on 456 Arab industrial projects which will be referred to a general conference of Arab investors to be held in Tunis, he said. These projects offer Arabs a chance to invest their capital in the Arab World, Mr. Abdul Rashid said.

Press director opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Press and Publications Department Director Musa Al Keilani Wednesday opened at the Housing Bank complex the first exhibition by the artist Ibrahim Mohammad Hiyasat. On display at the 17-day exhibition are 32 paintings of the Armed Forces and photographs of Their Majesties King Hussein and Jueen Noor, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The exhibition is being held to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday.

Jordan, PLO remain committed to accord

(Continued from page 1)

Hassan said, "and they were conducted in a brotherly and friendly atmosphere."

"He said that both sides have agreed that 'no acts that could undermine or hurt the Feb. 11 agreement and joint peace efforts, shall be carried in the future.'"

The sources close to the talks said that the Jordanian government's main concern was that the PLO leadership should tighten its control on the organisation to ensure that such incidents as the Achille Lauro would never be repeated.

The sources said that the PLO leaders have started an investigation into the hijacking and that they will take the necessary steps to prosecute whoever was

involved in the Achille Lauro affair in order to ensure that such an incident will not happen in the future.

The two sides have also discussed the failure of the London meeting and agreed on a better coordination in the future," the sources said.

Mr. Hassan said Jordan and the PLO have discussed "joint Jordanian-Palestinian political moves and agreed on the importance of working together to influence the U.S. stand on the Palestinian question, despite the biased U.S. policies favouring Israel."

Other Palestinian sources said on Wednesday that Jordan and the PLO will make contacts with the European Parliament which

has recently announced its support for the Feb. 11 agreement.

These sources said that Jordan and the PLO have reiterated their commitment to an international peace conference, under the auspices of the United Nations and their rejection of separate and unilateral settlements with Israel.

After the conclusion of his talks here on Tuesday, Mr. Arafat sent a message to the Soviet leadership, sources quoted by the Associated Press said. The message was delivered to Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk during a late night meeting on Tuesday, the sources said. The meeting was attended by two senior aides of Mr. Arafat, the AP said but did not name who they were. The ambassador told rep-

orters after the meeting that he was on "special business" with the PLO leader.

The PLO chairman also received a message from French President Francois Mitterrand on Tuesday. PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem was quoted by the Qatari News Agency as saying that the message reiterated French support for the Feb. 11 accord and all efforts aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East. French Ambassador Patrick Leclercq delivered the message to Mr. Arafat Tuesday night.

Mr. Arafat arrived the Saudi holy city of Medina, on Wednesday after a brief stopover in Baghdad, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Jordan urges backing for projects in occupied land

(Continued from page 1)

forms the basis for any future improvement and progress, and the useful experience which some Arab countries have had through their bilateral cooperation in industry should serve as an example for wider forms of cooperation involving all Arab states. The past decade witnessed the emergence of several joint Arab projects but that was only a limited achievement. More efforts are required if the Arab Nation is to meet the challenges of the modern era and rid itself from advanced nations' predominance.

"Any talk on cooperation among Arab countries for achieving economic integration remains academic unless practical steps are made to make it a reality and translate into facts all agreements on economic cooperation. The Arabs should lay down plans and programmes for development and should launch bilateral and pan-Arab industrial ventures in all Arab states benefiting from all their skilled manpower and financial resources."

"Jordan, for its part, has always been open and clear in coordinating its efforts with other Arab states and continues to maintain contacts with Arab Common Market countries within the framework of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and makes every possible effort towards freeing Arab trade and removing all restrictions on commodities exchanged among Arab countries."

"Jordan has joined numerous schemes within the Arab World, and at present it is linked with Syria through the Jordan-Syria Industry Company (JOSICO) which aims at launching joint industrial projects, and with Iraq through a joint industry company and a third similar one with Saudi Arabia."

"In addition, Jordan is partner in a number of pan-Arab industrial companies like the Arab Mining Company (ARMICO)

and the Arab Potash Company (APC).

"There is no doubt that co-ordination in pan-Arab industries through the AOID has been a sound and successful method and should be encouraged and pursued."

"I sincerely hope that within this meeting the participants will be able to hold dialogues to expand joint Arab projects and thus open the way for new ideas in industrial cooperation among Arab states. Industrial development is closely linked to scientific and technological progress; and we in the Arab World continue to import tens of billions of dollars worth of foreign industrial products, and continue to carry out projects using very costly imported technical equipment. But all this has not helped us so far to realise a high rate of industrial development. We must insist on importing only those technical equipment that are conducive to our economic development."

"We cannot build up a modern industry without employing sufficient manpower and financial resources and without scientific research. A report for the AOID meeting says that the implementation of feasibility studies on a number of pan-Arab projects presents a good opportunity for transferring advanced technology to the Arab World and I sincerely hope that Arab countries achieve this through AOID help and through cooperation with advanced nations."

"The AOID can play a significant part in promoting industrial schemes in less developed countries so that the gap between these countries and more advanced ones can be narrowed."

"The AOID can and should help promote industry in the occupied Arab territory where Israel is placing obstacles in the path of the industrial sector to make the Arab territory's economy totally dependent on Israel's economy."

Any help to the Palestinian people in this concern is bound to help foil Israel's designs and therefore we consider assistance to Arab industrial projects in the territories under Israeli rule as a basic element in building up a strong Arab economy that can preserve Arab identity and safeguard Palestinian people's rights.

"The AOID, in cooperation with Arab countries, is called on to extend as much assistance as possible to the Arab population in the occupied lands."

"I hope this meeting will come up with practical steps that can be implemented on the path of joint Arab action for the sake of fulfilling Arab goals."

At the outset of Wednesday's session, AOID Director General Hatem Abdul Rashid made a speech voicing the organisation's appreciation to King Hussein for patronising the meeting. Mr.

Abdul Rashid said the Amman meeting will discuss a number of important subjects of concern to all Arab countries and lay down the work for a general Arab industrial development conference. The AOID, he said, has embarked on preparing studies to help Arab industrial projects achieve success.

The AOID is guided in its programmes and activities by the resolutions of the Amman Arab Summit of 1980, which laid down the foundation for joint Arab economic cooperation. Mr. Abdul Rashid said.

He called on Arab states to help the AOID lay down a sound basis for industrial development.

The meeting will discuss feasibility studies for joint Arab industrial projects, and AOID training programme in electricity sectors and preparations for the AOID's seventh conference.

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Polyculture: A unique method of fish raising in China

By Zhang Weimin

THE COMMON practice of fish culture is to stock ponds or rivers with just one single species of fish. But Chinese fish farmers have developed a unique method in their 1,000-year-long history of aquaculture of raising various species together to utilise fully the space and food available.

Although this method of "polyculture" involves various species which feed on different types of food and dwell at different depths of water, the Chinese fish farmers select the right types and the right numbers of each species for an ecologically harmonious balance.

Grass carp, a common species along the Pearl River basin in southern China, is bred along with silver carp and bighead carp. Feeding mainly on grass and other plants, the grass carp is a big eater, but it cannot digest well whole plant cells, and excretes many intact and undigested plant cells, which decompose and nurture plankton in the water. The proliferation of plankton competes with grass carp for oxygen and fertilizes the water, rendering it unfit for grass carp, which prefers clear water. So Chinese fish farmers mix grass carp with silver carp and bighead carp, which are plankton feeders throughout life. While grass carp dwells at midwater in the pond, and silver carp and bighead carp stay on the surface, and by feeding on the proliferating

plankton from the grass carp's excreta, they reduce the fertility of the water and make it suitable again for grass carp.

The combination of various species in polyculture varies from place to place in China, but the principle is to choose the species whose habits and food cycle benefit in a chain.

Lin Haoren, chairman of the Biology Department of China's Zhongshan University, said that mixed culture of the four major Chinese carps — grass, silver, bighead and black carp — had been carried out in China as early as the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). Since then, polyculture as an important principle and widespread technique has been applied more and more in the fish culture of China. Monoculture is still used, but generally only for fry and fingerlings up to about three centimetres long.

In the temperate and sub-tropical regions of China, the growth period for cultured fish often lasts seven to eight months. The Yangtze and Pearl Rivers basins are located in climates in which fish can be bred continuously throughout the year. In 1984 China produced about 1.85 million tons of fish from freshwater fish culture, the largest production of cultured freshwater fish in the world.

In the mixture of different species, there are generally one or two principal species, 50 per cent of the total population of fish stock-

ed in the ponds, and four or five — or as many as a dozen — compatible species cultured with them.

The principal species, said Professor Lin, is determined by four factors — the availability of fish fry and fingerlings, availability of feed locally, fertility of the water and market conditions.

Along the Yangtze River, where gastropods and bivalves abound, the principal species is usually black carp, which feeds on gastropods and bivalves. But in the Pearl River basin, there are no large amounts of gastropods and bivalves, so the principal species is plant-feeder grass carp.

Since the fertility of water has an effect on the growth of fish, silver carp or bighead carp should generally be the principal species for fertile water, and grass carp for less-fertile water.

A more traditional type of polyculture practised in China is to rear fish of different species and various sizes in the same pond from fingerling to marketable size. During the rearing period, those fish that have grown big enough will be removed and new fry added to maintain a stable stocking density.

Over recent decades, a new method — multigrade polyculture — has become popular in China. Much more labour is required for this method as it necessitates raising the fish in a series of ponds,

from fry to marketable size. The fry grow in one pond and when they grow up into fingerlings, they are caught and put into other ponds; after the fingerlings grow bigger, they are again put into another pond. There are usually four to six grades of ponds for the mix-cultured fish to grow from fry to marketable size.

The benefit of this method, said Professor Lin, "is that it provides enough living space and food for the fish to grow and increases the yield."

The progress of polyculture is also measured by the increase in the numbers of species to be mix-cultured. In Guangdong province before 1978, there were just three species used in polyculture, but now more than 15 species are used.

SP Tilapia originates in Africa, but a cross species is now used by more and more Chinese fish farmers as the principal species in their polyculture, because the fish feeds on a variety of food, grows faster and the yield is high.

Traditionally, few carnivorous fish have been reared in China. With the growing market demand for it, Chinese fish farmers also began to mix-culture it by either putting the small-size ones of this species with the big-size, non-carnivorous ones or by stocking the ponds with this species after non-carnivorous ones have grown bigger — China features.



Peasants in a village in central China breed fish in small ponds (Photo from China features)

Randa Habib's Corner

Unruly pedestrians block traffic

IN MOST cities of the world one of the major problems is traffic congestion.

We in Jordan, face that same problem in our cities. The situation is even worse since the Ministry of Interior circle was closed. With all the "detour" signs, a 10 minute drive takes you easily one hour now. If you want to visit others in Jabal Al Hussein or the Sport City area, allow a margin of at least 40 minutes.

Well, look at the bright side of the matter: With all those detours we are discovering the city. I bet you are seeing now areas you had never seen before.

The other day I had to go to the airport at Marka. And I was advised to avoid Jabal Al Hussein and drive directly through downtown. So I did. My first experience through downtown revealed that congestion is not caused only by cars — but also by people.

In Sakf Al Sayl area, near the Philadelphia Hotel and the Roman amphitheatre, the number of cars was quite normal and it would not take very long to drive through, if it was not for the pedestrians. They are everywhere except on the sidewalk. Yes, in most areas there are sidewalks. But here they are, strolling in the middle of the road, deaf to your horn, taking their time.

And when one of them finally realised that you are trying to pass, he looks at you in such a way that makes you feel that you are the one bothering him.

Yes, in the downtown area pedestrians are kings: They cross when they want, walk where they want, and even stop in groups if it pleases them, right in the middle of the street.

Drivers have no choice but to wait patiently or to honk your horn impatiently and face the consequences. I mean insults, expressions of anger, gesticulations or at least a lesson in patience: "Don't be in such a hurry my friend — take your time."

Mercedes Sosa sings for love, death and the oppressed in Latin America

By Paul Iredale

Buenos Aires — A concert by Mercedes Sosa is like a cross between a political rally and a football final.

With a voice of velvet which has the power to fill a stadium, the 50-year-old Argentine is one of Latin America's favourite performers. She is an Indian who sings of her people and a strident opponent of military regimes.

At the concert, left-wing party flags flutter alongside the banners of exile groups, the crowds chant in anticipation of their favourite numbers, the audience is a sea of dancing bodies.

Sosa, a stocky, dark-skinned woman with the broad features and jet-black hair of her native Tucuman province, is in complete control.

Her songs speak of struggle and oppression and of the downtrodden victims of Latin America's turbulent politics.

She casts scorn on Argentina's former military rulers, speaking of the dead, rather than the "disappeared," in the armed forces "dirty war" that forced her to leave her homeland in 1979.

"I am a woman of the left," she told Reuters in an interview between rehearsals at a huge indoor sports stadium in Buenos Aires.

One of her most popular songs, "Gracias a la Vida" (Thanks be to life), written by the Chilean song-writer Violeta Parra, has become an anthem of anti-government protest in that country.

Sosa refuses to perform in Chile while General Augusto Pinochet, the author of a bloody coup that ousted Marxist president Salvador Allende in 1973, rules.

"I am not going to sing in Chile until Pinochet falls. I will sing for the Chilean people when they have democracy," she said.

She also refuses to sing in other Latin American dictatorships like Paraguay and, until recently, Uruguay.

"I am not interested in (singing in) countries where they don't respect human rights," she added.

"We sing so that never again will injustices return. We sing so that never again will there be blacklists," she said.

Mercedes Sosa knows about blacklists. Soon after the military

came to power in Argentina in 1976, she found that many of her songs had been banned by the new regime.

In 1978, while performing at a concert in the provincial town of La Plata, police burst onto the stage and dragged her off to prison together with 350 members of the audience.

Sosa was held for 18 hours, told she was a "red stain" on her country, then released on payment of \$1,000.

Aware of her luck in a land where thousands had already vanished in detention camps of the military regime, she left Argentina for Europe and did not come back until the return of democracy in 1982.

Linked repeatedly with the Communist Party, she refuses to discuss her political affiliations, but says she is "a woman of peace."

She admits to helping raise money for youth groups who went to Nicaragua to pick the coffee harvest last year "because the Nicaraguan people are very poor, really they need help. All the world should lend a hand to Nicaragua and El Salvador because they are suffering many problems."

"What I try to do most is to persuade them (audiences) to work to unite the Latin American continent," Sosa said.

"Democracy is a very fragile thing. You have to be very careful, day by day," she said.

She takes her material from the writings of Latin American poets. Her songs cover the length and breadth of the continent, from reprints of the near-extinct Indian tribes of southern Argentina, through the Tangos of Buenos Aires and the Sambas of Brazil to the Ranchero tunes of Mexico.

She sings of love and of death — a favourite theme, she says, in her native Argentina.

Explaining the Argentine fascination with death in song, she breaks, in mid-interview, into an elegy for Argentine-born guerrilla fighter and cult hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara, killed in Bolivia in 1968.

But on stage, there is little of the mournful in her performance.

Beating her Indian base drum, waving a bulbous stick to emphasise a theme, her hand-woven coat billowing around her, she is a giant of the Latin American folk scene.

Soviets blame drinking habits on the West

By Tony Barber

MOSCOW — The Soviet authorities' campaign against vodka took a new tack this week when an article asserted that Soviets were historically teetotalers who were corrupted into drinking by Westerners.

The article, in the magazine Novoye Vremya (New Times), also contested the view of historians that heavy drinking has for centuries pervaded all levels of the society by saying the worst offenders were noblemen and clergymen, not ordinary people.

The article appealed to some of the deepest traits in the Soviet character — a sense that foreigners have always lain behind Soviet problems, and that common Soviet folk are, at least potentially, the most spiritually pure in the world.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, concerned at the effect of drinking on the economy and social life, began the anti-vodka drive in June, reducing selling hours, ordering a cutback in liquor output and stiffening punishments for drunkenness.

After months of exhortations at factories and Communist Party meetings and in the official press and television, the Novoye Vremya article marked an attempt to justify the campaign by placing it in an historical tradition.

At first it was only Tsarist nob-

lemen and administrators who took up the Western habit. Bogdanovich said, citing a report from an assembly summoned by Tsar Ivan the Terrible in 1551 which said the upper classes engaged in memorable orgies of fighting and drinking.

"It was not the Russian people, but the highest religious leaders and others with power who drank limitlessly, swore, quarrelled, fought till the blood flowed and were debauched."

By using the emotive word "narod" for ordinary Soviet, the author drew on a long tradition of distinguishing between common people, seen as spiritually upright and close to the soil, and other classes such as merchants and noblemen viewed as corrupted by money, power and foreign influences.

The author quoted a Western traveller in the middle ages who praised the strength and simplicity of Russians who ran into the streets in winter, rubbed themselves with snow and then took a hot bath without falling ill.

The message was that, if the "narod" obeyed Gorbachev's call not to drink, they would return to the state of spiritual and physical health which they enjoyed before they succumbed to the Western-induced drinking habits of their former masters.

Some historians would qualify the article's assertion that dri-

inking entered Russia from the West. Grand Prince Vladimir of Kiev, a 10th-century ruler, is famous for saying that drink had been "the joy of the Russes" since time immemorial.

But a Western influence in later times is undeniable. The 18th-century Tsar Peter the Great, an awesome drinker, staged many bouts with a Swiss adventurer, Francis Lefort. Peter set up a drinking society with bizarre rituals which was known as "the all-joking, all-drunken synod of fools and jesters."

Bogdanovich quoted a passage from Lenin which accused the Tsarist authorities of viewing alcohol as a way to boost state revenues from sales taxes and which suggested drinking would hamper workers in fulfilling their revolutionary destiny.

But he also sketched a picture of pre-revolutionary imperial Russia in which non-Bolshevik temperance movements were on the march and in which the most eminent figures, such as author Leo Tolstoy, were strongly opposed to drink.

The implication was that drink is alien not just to Communism but to the entire Russian tradition.

"In modern Soviet life drunkenness is above all a sign of disloyalty, a result of bad upbringing and a tribute... to a slavish attitude to harmful habits of old," Bogdanovich said.

Airships: Famine relief raised to new heights?

New-model blimps may be the latest technical innovation in famine relief. Andy Crump is a London-based freelance journalist specialising in environment and development issues.

LONDON — Drought-stricken Africans look to the skies for the rains that will ease their desperate plight. In future droughts, they may receive some comfort in looking up and sighting an airship.

"Airships" (also known as blimps or "non-rigid airships"), kept aloft by huge bags of a lighter-than-air gas such as helium, have been around for about a century. Now improvements in their design may make them ideal for famine relief. The modifications would enable the ships to carry large cargoes, which would reduce the costs involved in transporting materials to remote areas. The new airships could be used in such operations as evacuating victims from flood or earthquake areas.

In the famine relief operations in the Sahel, the U.N. has estimated distribution costs alone at \$500 million, which includes around \$2 million just to get more vehicles on the road. If these costs could be cut, then more money could be spent on long-term development, as opposed to emergency relief.

Airships by planes are extremely expensive but essential where roads are few in number and often washed out during the rainy season.

"It costs \$1,000 per tonne for airships from Khartoum to Darfur (a province in western Sudan)," says Mike McCray, a spokesman for a company distributing U.S. government and Save the Children Fund food aid in the Sudan. Added to this are the losses which occur if supplies are jettisoned rather than landed.

For such reasons, the work of a British firm, Wren Skyships, has been attracting attention. The company is currently constructing the first of a series of craft using a metal hull. The 128 metre "RS1" will be capable of carrying 27 tonnes.

With a cruising speed of 126 knots and a range of 8,000 kilometres, the RS1 will fly faster than airships already in service. Its manoeuvrability will be improved

through the addition of thruster engines in both the nose and the tail.

A major disadvantage of conventional airships is that the mast they require for mooring during unloading must be carried overland to mooring sites. Mooring is necessary while ballast is added to the ship to compensate for the off-loaded cargo. This virtually negates the advantage of being independent of road, rail or land conditions.

Up to 10 tonnes can be unloaded from the RS1 while it floats, before there is a need to take on ballast or moor the ship. The ship will also be able to carry its own mast, which can be lowered to the ground, together with a ground crew to secure it.

The RS1 will take three years to build at a cost of some \$13.3 million. Another year will be required before the craft can obtain an airworthiness certificate. The company plans to build 63 of these vessels over the next decade. It has already raised \$21 million of the

necessary capital from the Scottish Development Agency, the Middle East, Canada, and other sources within Britain, and is hoping to eventually secure twice this figure. To sceptical observers, the use of the airships may seem to be far-fetched — a waste of scarce resources. Yet there are strong arguments to the contrary.

Transport, especially in the worst-affected rural areas, is one of the major stumbling blocks to relief efforts. In the Sahel, 1,830 km of secondary roads have already been constructed in an attempt to ease the problem. A further 7,000 km are urgently needed, at a construction cost of \$196 million over the next five years.

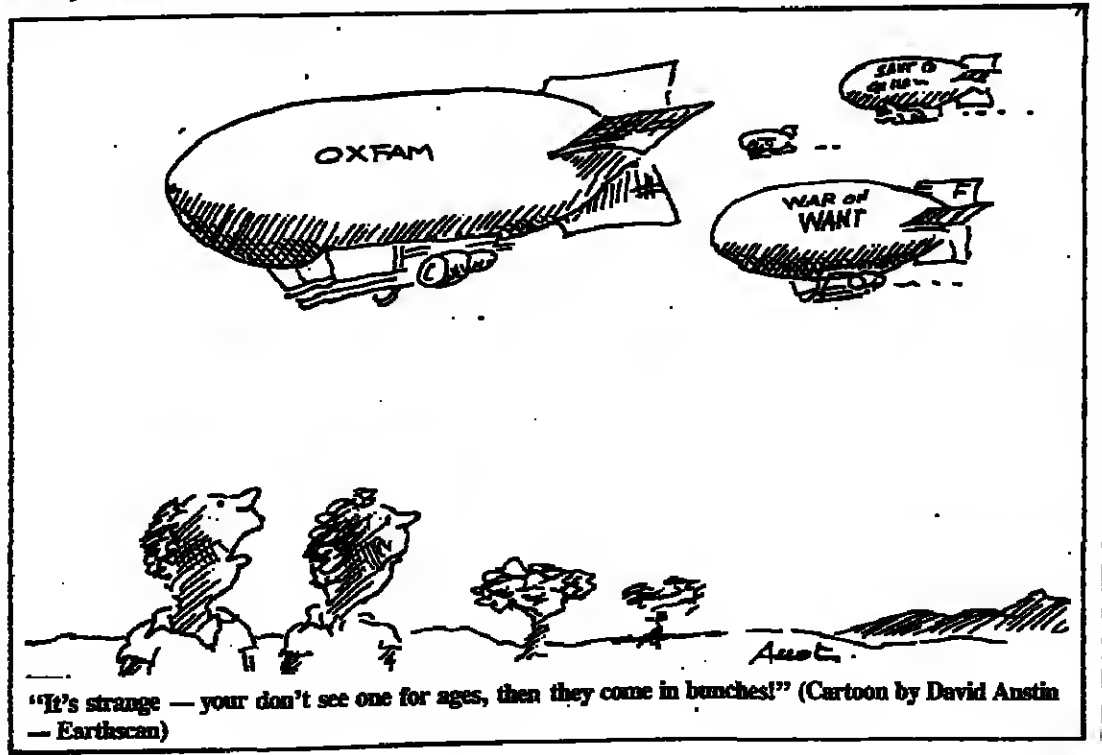
U.N. figures indicate that a minimum of \$5 million annually will be needed for basic maintenance of these roads. All these costs have to be spent on fuel or vehicle maintenance.

The Band Aid Trust has all too soon become aware of the high cost of transportation. It has already committed \$17 million to shipping, flights and road transport.

Philip Rusted, Live Aid's financial adviser, has commented that "these new airships will be built too late for African relief effort, but when one is built, I'm sure all the charities will be interested. The ships have a lot of potential," Hugh Groyder, Oxfam's Field Director in Ethiopia, has also expressed interest in the use of airships.

In remote rural areas, the use of airships with large payloads of essential equipment could significantly reduce the costs of large-scale development projects such as road-building, irrigation or hydroelectric power schemes. The Brazilian authorities have already admitted that, if the RS1 had been available, they could have saved millions of dollars on the hydropower project at Itaipu, Brazil.

The Chinese and Zimbabwean governments are among those that have expressed an interest in the airship. If it fulfils its promise, the RS1 could pick up as many as 200 people at a time from disaster-stricken regions. It could have saved many lives during last year's floods in Bangladesh — Earthscan feature.



"It's strange — you don't see one for ages, then they come in bunches!" (Cartoon by David Austin — Earthscan)

Tackling the pirates who produce sour notes

Singapore is the world's biggest centre of "piracy" — cassette tapes recorded and sold illegally. But the tune is about to change, reports Chris Sherwell.

SINGAPORE — A recent Singapore police raid on a shop selling pirated music cassette tapes turned up an intriguing find: a compilation album which included songs by a Singaporean pop music group, Tokyo Sings.

In the world's biggest music piracy centre, local artists and producers are now starting to suffer the fate of their better-known Western counterparts.

Apple Computer, a few days before this, had won a permanent High Court injunction forbidding 15 local companies from dealing in fake software. Apple had previously won two cases against retailers of counterfeit computer products, but the latest action on pirated software was a breakthrough.

Both developments occurred around the time of a visit by a high-powered U.S. government technical delegation specialising in intellectual property.

The team, which included experts from the Library of Congress's Copyright Office and from the Patent and Trademark Office, pored over a draft copy of Singapore's proposed new Copyright Law — a bulky document long awaited by foreign publishers, producers, performers and authors, not to mention computer companies.

These interests all see Singapore as a pirate's haven. The island state exports tens of millions of illicit pre-recorded cassette tapes annually, sells copies of widely-used computer software at a fraction of normal retail costs and reproduces bound photocopies of expensive textbooks at student-budget prices. The draft law is Singapore's most significant response yet to the international pressure for change.

From what both Singapore officials and interested outside parties are saying, a mixture of elation

and dismay seems likely to greet this latest step forward, reflecting what is plainly a delicate balance of domestic and international forces on a sensitive issue.

The elation is over the sheer quality of the proposed legislation. Based almost exclusively on Australia's copyright law — "pirated," remarks one observer wryly — it is the most up to date in the world, taking into account modern developments in the computer electronics field.

If the legislation is passed in its existing form, it is reckoned that publishers and producers abroad ought to feel satisfied.

The "if," however, points to one reason for probable dismay. The draft legislation must go to government ministries for comment, and it is unlikely to survive unscathed.

After revision and submission to parliament, it is still likely to be the subject of exhaustive public hearings, to give the public — meaning pirates and consumers — a chance to modify it further.

This in turn underscores a second reason for dismay. The modified Bill, it seems, is unlikely to become law for up to 18 months, perhaps even longer given the infrequency of parliamentary sittings. The collapse in Singapore's legendary growth rate this year — it expects zero or negative growth for the first time since independence — will not help.

There are other problems. The draft law appears to be weak, for example, in relation to penalties. Although it is understood to increase existing penalties fivefold, some believe this is not enough to combat the export of pirate cassettes by the container-load.

The idea of dealing with piracy as a civil instead of a criminal offence, punished with fines and confiscations rather than jail terms,

will keep Singapore out of line with the practice in other countries, a somewhat contradictory position having opted to go this far.

The draft law is also believed to provide both for accession to international conventions (without spelling out which) and for bilateral arrangements with other countries. The latter, however, would probably be unnecessary if Singapore simply acceded to the Universal Copyright Convention.

A separate question is whether Singapore might now be hedging the passage of legislation with requests for special action by the interests abroad pressing for change.

For example, a statement issued after the consultations with the U.S. technical team declared: "The Singapore side expressed the view that the issue of intellectual property rights infringement should be looked at in its totality, and suggested that business enterprises in both countries co-operate and try to arrive at a mutually acceptable arrangement to produce tapes and books at prices within the reach of the general public."

A Singapore official has pointed out even more specifically in relation to the pirate music business that any solution "needs to take into account the interests of the recording industry in Singapore and of Singapore consumers." He suggests that licensing arrangements be offered by international companies abroad.

This is unlikely to be acceptable to the industries concerned, and is clearly more of a policy and economic question rather than a technical, legal one related directly to the draft law.

It is difficult to see how such proposed arrangements would be made contingent on legislation being passed. The International Federation of Phonogram and Videogram Producers (IFPI), which defends the rights of producers of sound and video rec-

ordings, was quick to knock on the head any hints that the Singapore pirates somehow he "legitimised."

The IFPI said the whole music industry, including composers and performers, could benefit from a new copyright law. It pointed out that its objective was to reverse the retrenchment caused by international record companies leaving pirate-infested Singapore.

The federation added that by stimulating competition, a new law would also benefit the consumer, who would have better quality products and a wider choice of material.

The IFPI has received Singapore's help in making raids on pirate retailers, but it finds the process under the present antiquated law fraught with technical difficulties. Just as painstakingly, a group of British book publishers earlier this year secured a landmark decision from the Singapore High Court, which ruled in their favour against a local seller of pirated textbooks.

The focus of their activity, the Copyright Act, was passed in Britain in 1911 and proclaimed a year later in Singapore, then a British possession. Singapore, in belatedly considering an update of this law, appears to be going one step further and opting for a wholesale change. This is plainly welcome.

The unanswered question in the face of this genuine progress, however, is whether Singapore is still playing for time. The island state wants to create what it calls a "brain services centre" for the region, and above all a computer-literate society, as quickly as possible.

Textbooks and software will have to be made easily available to its students. But as the pop group Tokyo Square has discovered with its pirated music, there comes a point when this approach is self-defeating.

— Financial Times news feature.

Lauda set to retire after Adelaide race

ADELAIDE (R) — Three times world Formula One motor racing champion Niki Lauda Wednesday denied that he had accepted a \$6 million offer to break his retirement pledge and race again for Brabham.

"I decided in August that I am not going to race next year and this is going to be my last Grand Prix here in Adelaide and I am not racing next year," Lauda said.

"I hope I will stick with this view. As I said before, at the moment I am pretty sure not to race next year."

Lauda said in August that Sunday's inaugural Australian Grand Prix would be his last. But he has already made one comeback after quitting the sport in 1979 while a member of the Brabham team.

He returned to drive for McLaren in 1982 and won the world

title for the third time last year. If he does retire, the 36-year-old Austrian will leave behind a record bettered by only one man — Scott Jackie Stewart.

Lauda, winner of the world title with Ferrari in 1975 and 1977, has won 25 Grands Prix to Stewart's 27. Wednesday he left no doubt about his determination to end his career with a win.

"I am not here to cruise around," Lauda said. "I will try my best to end my career in a most competitive way."

He said that car reliability pro-

blems had prevented him from reaching his best this year but stressed that these problems had not harmed his motivation.

"There are a million things which can go wrong with a car and finally enough they all happened to my car."

Lauda will be replaced in the McLaren team by Finland's Keke Rosberg, now with Williams.

Frenchman Alain Prost, who has already clinched this year's world crown for McLaren, told reporters he expected it to be a little difficult to adjust to Rosberg's all-out driving style but said he was looking forward to him joining the team.

McLaren team boss Ron Dennis said: "We don't run a number one, number two situation. All our cars are the same. There's no reason why Keke shouldn't have a very good chance of winning the world championship."

Liverpool, United win Cup matches

LONDON (R) — Transfer-listed Paul Walsh took his tally to five goals in two games with a hat-trick in Liverpool's English League Cup demolition of Brighton Tuesday night.

Walsh, only in action because Ian Rush was injured, struck in the 11th, 70th and 72nd minutes of the third round tie. Kenny Dalglish boosted the score to 4-0 10 minutes from time.

Runaway league leaders Manchester United ended West Ham's 12-match unbeaten run with a 1-0 win. But the Londoners gave United some anxious moments before howling out to a Norman Whiteside goal in the 77th minute. Cup holders Norwich sent

Luton crashing 2-0 — their first defeat on their artificial pitch. First half goals by Peter Mendham and Steve Bruce settled the issue.

Fourth division Swindon produced the shock of the night by eliminating first division Sheffield Wednesday 1-0. Peter Coyne scored early on.

Champions Everton thrashed Shrewsbury 4-1 with goals from Graeme Sharp, Kevin Sheedy and Adrian Heath, plus an own goal by former Everton defender Darren Hughes.

Queen's Park Rangers cracked Watford's unbeaten home run with a 1-0 triumph. John Byrne, recalled after injury, was on target.

Budd and Decker were paid for July race

LONDON (AP) — American television paid British teenager Zola Budd \$125,000 and American Mary Decker Stanley \$75,000 for one race last July, it was confirmed Tuesday.

Slaney won the 3,000 metres race at London's Crystal Palace track and Budd finished third.

Enormous interest centred on the race, billed as a rematch of their disastrous Olympic clash in which Slaney fell after a tangle with Budd and failed to finish.

Mike Turner, treasurer of the British Amateur Athletics Board, revealed the figures at the European Athletics Union congress in Oslo.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE					
Soccer Standings					
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Tots					
Cairo-Amman	4	3	0	1	10
Alico	4	0	0	4	4
Jordan Express	4	0	1	3	3
Nashabibi-Ebbini	4	0	2	2	2
Juniors					
Sakura	4	3	0	1	10
Marriott	4	1	1	2	5
Near East Equipmco	4	1	1	2	5
International Traders	4	1	2	1	4
American Express	4	1	2	1	4
Istiklal Library	4	0	1	3	3
Mids					
Ericsson	4	3	1	0	9
Goodyear	4	2	1	1	7
Volvo	4	2	2	0	6
Al Ahlyah	4	1	1	2	5
Asira	4	1	2	1	4
Peugeot	4	0	2	2	2
Seniors					
Jordan Lift	4	4	0	0	12
Chase Manhattan	4	3	1	0	9
P.A.C.C.	4	2	1	1	7
Squibh	4	1	2	1	4
Lego	4	1	3	0	3
Intercon	4	0	4	0	0

McEnroe on mend after off year

PARIS (R) — John McEnroe, nursing injury and short of match practice, is back in Europe trying to salvage something from what for him has been an unrewarding year.

The American, 26, failed for once to win a grand slam title and yielded his world number one ranking position to Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who dethroned him at the U.S. Open and who is seeded above him at this week's European Champions' tournament in Antwerp.

In an exclusive interview published in L'Equipe Tuesday, McEnroe said there were other things for him in life besides tennis. "I know it's getting more and more difficult for me to concentrate only on tennis," he said.

He said Stefan Edberg, who also played in the exhibition and the other Swedish players thought about nothing but tennis. "I was perhaps like that once, but I doubt it," he said.

McEnroe, who quit the U.S. Davis Cup team after last December's final defeat by Sweden, said he had not yet decided whether he would return to the squad following the departure of Arthur Ashe as non-playing team captain.

But he questioned whether Ashe had done a good job and said it was time he yielded the post. "Five years is enough," he told L'Equipe, and suggested it would be a good idea to give the job to lesser-known coaches rather than former champions.

He characterised 17-year-old West German prodigy Boris Becker as "a great athlete" but said he would not have won Wimbledon with a wooden racket, which increased the importance of tactics, where rackets of new materials assisted his power.

THE Daily Crossword by Gayle Dean

ACROSS

- Adrian's last name
- Kind of 40
- "May look on a king"
- Urges on
- One deposit
- Starch source
- Second string's spot
- Captain
- Simple sugar
- Actor's award
- Start of quote
- Truckee River city
- Swedes
- All
- Author of quote
- Elusive
- Onassis
- Actress Berger
- Presidential nickname
- WWII Gen. scold
- Long period
- Flourishing
- Fling
- End of quote
- High up
- Championship start
- "Honest"
- Sharpen
- On the Anderson
- Zola
- Assessate
- Russ. saint
- Bedford
- Places for flowers
- Charge
- Joseph Brodsky
- Valley
- Corundum
- Raton, Fla.
- Bedouin
- Puffed up
- Time periods
- abbr.
- Catch-all abbr.
- On the beach
- By torpedo vessel
- Orient
- Ruler abbr.
- Christmas song
- Bids
- Sternutation
- Island
- Slight color
- Bangor's state
- More adept
- Indignant
- Jezabel's husband
- Yacht's score
- Ship's record
- May honoree

DOWN

- Skewered meat
- Adipose
- Take up again
- Catch-all abbr.
- On the beach
- By torpedo vessel
- Raton, Fla.
- Bedouin
- Puffed up
- Time periods
- abbr.
- Catch-all abbr.
- On the beach
- By torpedo vessel
- Raton, Fla.
- Bedouin
- Puffed up
- Time periods
- abbr.
- Catch-all abbr.
- On the beach
- By torpedo vessel

DIRECTLY TO ANKARA & ISTANBUL

TWICE A WEEK FLY TO TURKEY BY TURKISH AIRLINES

FROM 27th. OCT. 1985 TO 24th. MARCH 1986	FROM 31st. OCT. 1985 TO 27th. MARCH 1986
SUNDAYS TK 834	THURSDAYS
1100 DEP. ISTANBUL	TK 806
1320 ARR. AMMAN	TK 807
MONDAYS TK 835	
1425 DEP. AMMAN	1045 DEP. ISTANBUL ARR 1925
1655 ARR. ISTANBUL	1140 ARR. ANKARA DEP. 1830
	1230 DEP. ANKARA ARR. 1740
	1430 ARR. AMMAN DEP. 1530

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6:00 p.m. - Midnight

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<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420</p> <p>THE THIEF OF HEARTS (Colour) Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 629155</p> <p>A PASSAGE TO INDIA (Colour) Performances 3:00, 6:00, 9:00</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117</p> <p>SLOANE (Colour) Performances 12:3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cine-Theatre Philadelphia Tel: 34444-34440</p> <p>THE VICE-SQUAD (Colour) Shows at 3:30 6:30-10:15</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198</p> <p>ANDHAA KAANOON (Colour) Performances 12:3-5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA Tel: 678673</p> <p>PASSION FLOWER HOTEL (Colour) Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 10:45 Abdali, behind ALMA office</p>
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4470/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3635/40	Canadian dollars
	2.6155/65	West German marks
	2.9515/30	Dutch guilders
	2.1445/55	Swiss francs
	53.00/05	Belgian francs
	7.9675/725	French francs
	1765/1767	Italian lire
	211.15/25	Japanese yen
	7.8575/625	Swedish crowns
	7.8555/605	Norwegian crowns
	9.4820/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	326.60/327.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities finished the session at record closing highs, with prices lifted by a follow through to Tuesday's record levels and Wall Street's firmer trend, dealers said. Shares drifted midmorning from early highs on profit-taking but rallied after Wall Street's firmer opening.

At 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was up 8.6 to a record 1373.0, while at 1500 the FT 30 was up 5.2 to 1066.5 after an all-time high of 1067.4 at 1000 GMT.

Among the leaders, Allied Lyons was up 5p to 275 and ICI 8p to 647, while Glaxo put on 45p to 1435. Reed International ended 1p off at 688, after a high of 717 on half-year results.

Government bonds finished up to 3/4 points higher in line with the trend in sterling and on the U.S. credit markets, dealers said. Golds ended mixed and North American firms.

Stores ended steady after an initial rise in line with Marks and Spencer which ended unchanged at 179 after a high of 182 on further consideration of Tuesday's better than expected results. Boots closed 3p up at 220 and Burton 3p higher at 543. TI group again attracted bid speculation to close 4p up at 403.

Banks showed Lloyds 7p higher at 454 after it announced a \$500 million perpetual floating rate Eurobond. Oils closed firm, after a mixed start with B.P. up 2p to 578 after 575.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 31, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Women will be more helpful to you in gaining your desired objectives than men today, especially in any matters that involve public relations. Avoid bizarre persons today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You want to make some drastic changes, but this would only bring bizarre persons into your life, so hold on to the tried and true.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may be financially worried and feel like doing something drastic, but don't, or you get into deeper trouble.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You want to get off to new places and people to improve your luck, but could make a mistake, so listen to advice of friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You think you have to do your work differently to get good results, but the only thing needed is to be more businesslike.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Forget strange kinds of amusements you know little about and be with persons of wealth and character.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have to be persevering in the business world if you are to be successful and not permit him to interfere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have made new contacts lately, but it is best you concentrate on those you know are successful and not those who are visionary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) In practical affairs listen to advice of family ties regarding more activity in the business world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your outside associates give fine ideas for making your talents pay off more handsomely now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Routine affairs should be handled in such a fashion that higher-ups are pleased now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Tone down your usually dynamic way of handling activities so that you do not wear yourself out.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use more accepted systems if you want to get ahead faster. Don't act discontented as it could be a deterrent to your progress.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will seem to have a dual nature, one that wants to do everything in the right way, and the other just the opposite, so teach that the former can bring great success and the latter much sorrow. Teach to be rightfully steadfast and persevering.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day has a warm and magnetic influence in effect that can make it possible for a considerable amount of cooperation to be developed in personal relations.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Come to a better understanding with your partners in the morning, and then carry through with this new plan.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle financial affairs with thought for the rights of others and all will go well. Make out a more workable budget.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are magnetic in the morning, and others will do as you desire, but later you may run up against stumbling blocks.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try to please one who is devoted to you in the morning, even if you must treat a disturbed friend tactfully.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you are cooperative in the morning, a favor may come your way, but later you may find it difficult to gain your personal aims.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Morning is the best time to handle important outside affairs since later you may have to cope with problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Look into some new outlet that can assist you in gaining your aims, and put it to work. Rest and relax this evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get your business affairs in good order and then stay indoors since the aspects are not favorable later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A partner will be supportive in the morning, but later will not be very cooperative. Try to build up your bank account.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to get your surroundings more charming early and then get to work with vim and vigor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan recreation for the evening since later there is much routine work to do. Get the OK from your mate for a social event.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get some new activity going at home in the morning, and then make your surroundings far more charming.

Greeks strike to protest against austerity measures

ATHENS (R) — Greece's 250,000 civil servants began a 24-hour strike Wednesday to protest against austerity measures introduced by the Socialist government.

The strike was called by their main union, Adedy, which called on the government to discuss salary increases in line with inflation.

The austerity measures, introduced on Oct. 11 and which include a 15 per cent devaluation of the drachma, wage curbs over two years and cuts in public spending, have provoked a series of protests and strikes.

Hospital doctors, who started a 48-hour strike Tuesday, were joined Wednesday by hospital staff in Athens. "Only emergency cases are being treated," a doctor's union official said.

The General Confederation of Labour, the national trade union body, has called for a general strike on Nov. 14.

World seafarers seek ways of halting secret oil trade with Pretoria

LONDON (R) — Seamen and dockers from all over the world met in London Wednesday to chart ways of choking off what they call a secret trade in oil to South Africa.

Conference officials said shipowners and oil companies would be warned that any of their vessels delivering clandestine shipments of oil to the white-ruled republic could be boycotted by national unions across the globe.

The meeting, bringing together representatives of seafarers from more than 30 countries including the Soviet Union, China and Western nations, was called to coordinate support for a United Nations embargo on oil supplies to South Africa.

Britain's opposition Labour Party leader, Mr. Neil Kinnock, opening the two-day conference, said economic sanctions against the Pretoria government must be intensified now that "apartheid is clearly starting to crumble."

Mr. Kinnock told delegates the London meeting could be "truly historic" in boosting rapidly-growing pressure for an end to the South African system of racial segregation.

No violators of the United Nations embargo were named at the first session of the conference, co-sponsored by the U.N. special committee against apartheid and by Maritime Unions Against Apartheid (MUAAP).

MUAAP, formed early last year by unions representing seamen and port workers in Britain, Australia and Denmark, issued a statement.

OPEC team to draw up plan

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — A committee of five ministers from member states of the Organisation of the Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is expected to report to OPEC's biannual ministerial conference, scheduled for Baghdad on Nov. 27.

The committee is expected to draw up a five-year plan on the development of the organisation's performance. The committee is expected to report to OPEC's biannual ministerial conference, scheduled for Baghdad on Nov. 27.

from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Tunisia and Algeria, will follow up a five-year plan on the development of the organisation's performance. The committee is expected to report to OPEC's biannual ministerial conference, scheduled for Baghdad on Nov. 27.

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Major airlines expect 1985 to be the worst in civil aviation history

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Major airlines were Wednesday ending the annual meeting of their International Air Transport Association (IATA) gloomily assessing 1985 as probably the worst in civil aviation history, plagued by accidents and poor profits.

IATA, to which most major carriers belong, said that the industry expected its overall profit to drop from \$500 million in 1984 to \$100 million — scarcely enough to buy one Jumbo jet, delegates said.

With 1985's accident and hijack record also taken into account, the year would probably go down as the worst in the history of civil aviation, IATA Secretary-General

Guenter Eser said in his annual report.

Some 329 people died in June when an Air India Boeing 747 crashed in the Irish Sea in what may have been sabotage and 520 died in a Japan Airlines 747 crash in August.

IATA said it would work with governments to prevent hijacking, murder and hostage-taking, but delegates stressed that IATA was not a political body and that the final decision for action rested with national governments.

IATA delegates unanimously called for universal condemnation of unlawful interference with scheduled international flights.

Commercial performance have been hit recently by an unexpected rise in fuel costs.

Commenting on the profitability of the business, a British delegate said: "This is a poor show. There's no way around it, we have to lower fares and open the market to more competition if profits are to rise."

Most West European airlines, however, are against U.S.-style deregulation including the removal of price controls and opening routes to competition.

Mr. Heinz Rubnau, chairman of West Germany's Lufthansa, voiced a widely-held sentiment when he said: "We in Europe will continue to require regulated order in the market."

An Egyptian delegate said Tuesday's condemnation of interference with scheduled flights was not in reference to the interception earlier this month by U.S. navy fighters of an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

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Banker complains of 'low financial morality' in S. Arabia

JEDDAH (R) — The head of Saudi Arabia's fourth largest bank, charging that Saudi borrowers were able to evade repaying their debts, has complained of a "deterioration of financial morality" in the kingdom.

The Saudi Gazette newspaper Wednesday quoted Mr. Yves Max, managing director of Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi, as calling for a solution to the question of the legal standing of the banks toward their debtors.

If answers are not found, he told the newspaper in an interview, banks will become extremely strict and reluctant to lend money.

Bankers and lawyers say that in Saudi Arabia's Sharia or Islamic law courts, the payment of interest — forbidden by Islam — is not enforceable.

"I think we're seeing a deterioration of financial morality," he said. "Some debtors are waiting to see what develops because they think, 'why should I pay the principal back with interest when my colleague had to pay back only the principal...'"

The problem of bad debts is a recent development in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Max said, adding that part of the problem stems from the bank's legal inability to seize collateral or assets in the event of non-payment — even if the debtors are able to pay.

Lawyers say a recent government decree has clarified the procedures for debt collection but no decree has covered the problem of collecting interest.

Mr. Max called the decree "a step in the right direction," but said it would have little real effect on banks because bad debtors can still appeal to pay only the principal.

Arguing for modern financial laws, Mr. Max said: "If you want to develop a large and modern economy, you need a large and modern banking system."

Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi is 40 per cent owned by France's Banque Indosuez, with the balance held by Saudi nationals.

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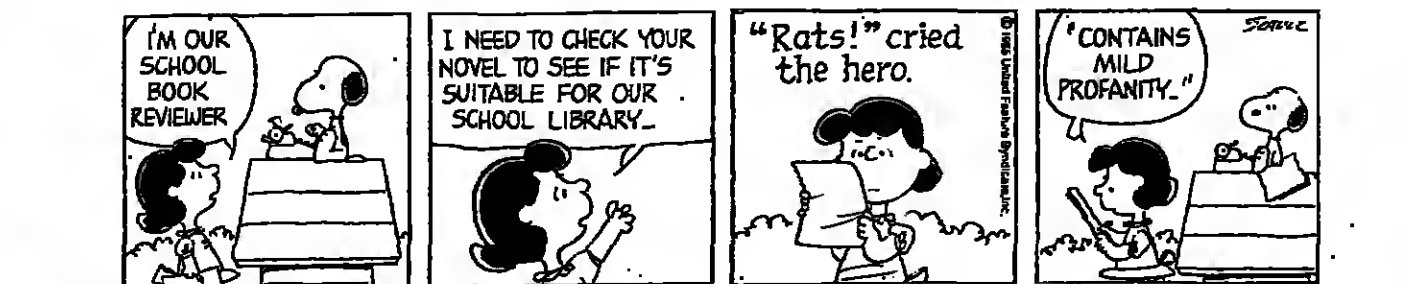
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Peanuts



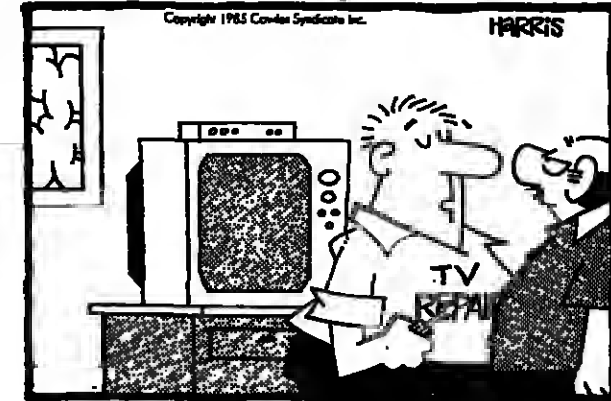
Mutt 'n' Jeff



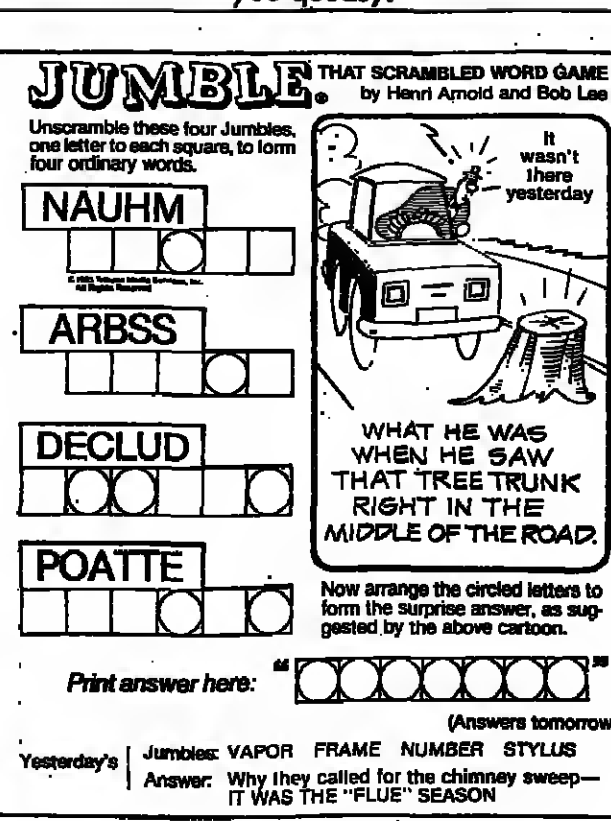
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



NATO ministers declare full support for Reagan

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO defence ministers declared their full support Wednesday for President Reagan at next month's Geneva summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

A communique issued after a two-day planning meeting declared: "On the eve of the meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, we declare that the president goes to Geneva with the full support and solidarity of the alliance."

The statement expressed "strong support for United States positions concerning intermediate, strategic and defence and space systems" but avoided any explicit endorsement of Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" space defence programme.

It called Mr. Gorbachev's recent arms control proposals "one-sided and self-serving."

The ministers referred to Tuesday's detailed briefing by U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger on alleged Soviet violations of arms control treaties.

"We take the most serious view of this and call on the new Soviet leadership to take the steps necessary to assure full compliance with its commitments," they said.

The communique said that "a double standard of compliance with arms control agreements would be unacceptable and would undermine the security of the alliance."

Ministers reaffirmed the requirement for effective verification of arms control accords.

They voiced concern at what they called a steady build-up of Soviet nuclear forces, in particular the testing and deployment of new strategic systems, including the SS-X-24 and the recently deployed SS-25.

Washington asserts that this missile violates the 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-2), which the United States never ratified.

The Soviet Union denies it is a violation.

Mr. Weinberger told a news conference: "I am particularly pleased with the unqualified support for the president."

"I think the whole cause of freedom has been strengthened by what happened here," he said after the 30-minute final session.

He and British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine reported progress towards an agreement on British participation in "Star Wars," the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) to design a space-based defence against nuclear missiles.

"I think we have the essentials of an understanding," Mr. Weinberger said.

berger said.

Mr. Heseltine was more cautious, saying they were "in the middle of these discussions" but were making considerable progress on arrangements for sharing technology.

In a veiled reference to demands for a large guaranteed share of the \$26-billion research fund, rejected by Washington, he said: "If Britain is to be involved, there is no point in doing it in a penny-package way."

Mr. Weinberger declined to give any guaranteed figure for the British share in the project but said: "I think the assurances come from the expertise that resides in the United Kingdom in the areas we are looking into."

He said he had no doubt that a large number of contracts would be awarded to British firms.

Officials said the two ministers would hold further bilateral talks after the news conference in an attempt to finalise a memorandum of understanding setting out terms and conditions for British participation.

Mr. Weinberger said the Reagan administration had rejected a conditional Soviet offer to stop work on a giant radar station in Siberia which Washington says is a major violation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

The radar had almost been completed and exterior work was finished, he said.

Kirkpatrick says U.S. 'inept' in U.N. politics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick has said that until the United States masters the internal politics of the United Nations, the world body will continue to be dominated by the Soviet Union and its allies.

"I really believe the politics of the United Nations is the key to reform of the U.N. and until a political majority can be formed (to back U.S. policies) nothing much is going to happen," she said.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Arkady Shevchenko, the Soviet defector and a former ranking U.N. bureaucrat, said Tuesday that the Soviet Union is a far better player of the game of multinational politics and therefore reaps the benefits.

But both said that the United States should stay in the world body.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick said the United States should use the "selected, targeted withholding of U.S. funds" to work for internal changes and to reverse U.N. policies hostile to the United States and contrary to the principles of the U.N. Charter.

"The United States is almost impotent in the politics of the United Nations," Mrs. Kirkpatrick said. "The United States has been inept and the Soviet Union has been very, very good."

Mr. Shevchenko said the role of the United States in the world body is almost entirely "defensive," that it almost never offers initiatives and has abdicated that role to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shevchenko said the Soviet policy is coordinated, that co-opts with all U.N. missions are constant and daily, in both working and social settings, and that the work of Soviet officials at the U.N. is reinforced by diplomatic initiatives in the capitals of all member states.

7 more killed as whites vote in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — White voter turnout appeared brisk Wednesday in five special elections seen by the ruling white party and its foes as a test of support for reform. Seven more blacks died in protests.

Police headquarters said five black men were stoned and then shot to death in a car in Umlazi township near Durban, where moderate blacks and their militant rivals have been battling for months.

In a report covering the hours from Tuesday evening to dawn Wednesday, police also said a pat-

rol shot dead a black man in Kwa-zakhele while dispersing a rock-throwing crowd. Also near Port Elizabeth, a black man was hacked to death by an ax-wielding mob after his home was fire-bombed.

The killings in Durban followed the assassination early Tuesday of a black Zulu homeland legislator and Central Committee member of Inkatha, a moderate Zulu organisation. The victim, Patrick Dlamini, was gunned down as he fled his blazing home set alight by gasoline bombs.

Titanic society urges wreck to be left in peace

WASHINGTON (R) — The wreck of the ocean liner Titanic should be protected so those who died aboard her can rest in peace, a spokesman for the Titanic Historical Society has said.

Society members Jon Hollis made his comments in testimony supporting legislation to designate the ship as a maritime memorial and regulate any exploration of the wreckage.

The Titanic was discovered on Sept. 1 by a French-American team of scientists on the floor of the Atlantic near Newfoundland. They used a remote-controlled submarine to find and photograph the wreckage.

The ship sank on April 14,

1912, when it struck an iceberg. More than 1,500 of the 2,200 passengers and crew died.

"I ask you on behalf of the Titanic Historical Society, its members, remaining survivors and the relatives of those lost in this greatest maritime disaster and myself, to allow these souls to rest in peace and let the R.M.S. Titanic lie in quiet and peaceful dignity," Mr. Hollis told the House Merchant Marine Committee.

The legislation the committee was considering would direct the State Department to negotiate an international agreement to protect the Titanic from unrestricted salvage operations.

British royal couple visits Australian wildlife hideaway

PAYNESVILLE, Australia (R) — Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana went for a tranquil walk through an Australian wildlife hideaway Wednesday and found reporters had scared away the animals.

The royal couple took time off from a busy round of formal engagements to visit Rotamah Island Bird Observatory near here in the eastern corner of the southern state of Victoria.

But the emus and kangaroos which abound on the small island were nowhere to be seen.

The 80-strong local and foreign press corps, allowed a few minutes on the island to watch the couple arrive by launch, sent a group of wild emus heading for the hush.

"We were disappointed we didn't see any animals like emus or

kangaroos, though we did see some tracks," ornithologist Dr. Douglas Dow said.

"I think the press scared them off and there wasn't much we could do about that," Dr. Dow, who walked with the royal couple, told reporters.

However the prince, a bird enthusiast and president of the International Wildfowl Trust, saw birds including black swans and crimson rosellas.

Their half-hour walk in warm spring sunshine was followed by an informal outdoor barbecue on the island with 50 Australian bird watchers.

Prince Charles was presented with an atlas of Australian birds. The 24-year-old princess, wearing a multicoloured tartan dress, was given a spray of wild flowers.

Soviet seaman decides to return home

WASHINGTON (R) — A seaman from a Soviet ship who twice swam ashore in the Mississippi river in what U.S. officials thought might have been a defection attempt, has decided to go home, State Department officials have said.

The seaman, Miroslav Medvid, was interviewed by U.S. officials for two days on board a U.S. Coast Guard cutter to determine whether he wanted to remain in the United States.

His decision to return to the Soviet Union ended a potentially embarrassing affair barely three weeks before President Reagan's summit meeting in Geneva with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

State Department sources had said that Medvid did not feel well Tuesday night but did not specify the nature of his illness.

Word that he would be going home was given initially by the Soviet ambassador to the United

States, Anatoly Dobrynin, as he left the State Department following talks with Secretary of State George Shultz.

State Department officials then confirmed the decision.

Medvid swam ashore twice near New Orleans on Friday, the first time after leaping from his ship, the grain carrier Marshal Kooev, and the second time after jumping out of a launch in which authorities were taking him back to the ship.

A statement signed by Medvid and released by the State Department said: "I do not request asylum in the United States."

Afghan rebels unwilling to negotiate with Soviets

WASHINGTON (R) — Afghan resistance groups see no point in negotiating with the Soviet Union, but still welcome President Reagan's call for such talks, a spokesman for seven guerrilla groups said in an interview.

"It is useless for us to sit down with the Russians," Gulbudin Hekmatyar, leader of one of the largest groups fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan, said in an interview in Wednesday's edition of the Washington Post.

"There is nothing to be discussed," Mr. Hekmatyar said. "They have invaded our country. The only solution is for them to withdraw their troops."

But Mr. Hekmatyar, who heads the Heczb-I-Islami group, praised what he said was a U.S. policy shift aimed at having the views of the Soviet Union and Afghan guerrillas represented in direct talks between the two sides.

United Nations-sponsored talks between Pakistan and the Soviet-backed Afghan government of Babrak Karmal have not reflected the views of Islamic groups which have fought Soviet troops since they entered Afghanistan in 1979, he said.

Mr. Hekmatyar is seeking a seat in the U.N. General Assembly and to oust Karmal government's representative.

An Afghan guerrilla leader charged Tuesday that India had provided more than 100 military advisers to assist the Soviet-backed Afghan army and had also supplied anti-personnel mines.

Mr. Hekmatyar was acting as spokesman at a press conference attended by leaders of seven guerrilla groups that earlier this year formed the Islamic Unity of Afghanistan Mujahideen.

He said the Soviet-installed government in Kabul also had the support of "some Cuban commandos" and units from South Yemen and Bulgaria, which he said were of battalion or brigade strength.

The Russians are trying to have the troops of all their satellites and friends in Afghanistan," he said. "They are trying to convince Indian forces to send some of their troops. Now some Indian advisers are supporting the Afghan army."

Hekmatyar, who was accompanied by leaders of the six other guerrilla organisations in the Islamic unity group, said he had information that "booby-trapped bombs are provided by India to the Afghan puppet army."

Under further questioning, he put the number of Indian military advisers at "more than 100."

China announces start of compulsory conscription

PEKING (R) — China Wednesday announced the start of compulsory conscription for its four million-strong armed forces, ending the tradition of the People's Liberation Army as a volunteer force.

Western diplomats said the Chinese army was having increasing difficulties attracting young men into its ranks because of greater opportunities in civilian life created by the economic reforms instituted since 1979.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) said new conscription regulations had been promulgated under which all males between the ages of 18 and 22 would be eligible to be called up.

Each district of the country will

have a quota of recruits to fill each year, unless the area is particularly poor, the agency said.

"Those eligible for military service who refuse or dodge registration or enlistment will be compelled to perform military service," the agency said.

One Western diplomat, commenting on the move, said: "There is no doubt the prestige of the military in Chinese society has dropped considerably in recent years."

"It is no longer as attractive a career as it used to be. There are better prospects doing normal work, especially for peasants now that rural areas are more prosperous," he added.

Hurricane Juan downgraded to tropical storm, 6 missing

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Five missing seamen were found safe but six were still missing as hurricane Juan was downgraded to a tropical storm.

Eight men on boats ferrying supplies to oil rigs were reported missing earlier as the hurricane crashed ashore west of New Orleans, forcing thousands to flee floodwaters up to 2.5 metres high, officials said.

Five of the missing men were on a 33-metre supply boat that broke away and disappeared while being towed inland by another vessel, the Coast Guard said. But on Tuesday night, they reported the five were found safe and sound.

Rescuers said they would resume the search for six other missing men.

Three were believed trapped inside a 17.5-metre barge that capsized and sank while on a shipping channel that leads from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mississippi river.

"Divers have been knocking on the galley hull where the men were supposed to be, but there's been no answer," a Coast Guard spokesman said.

In addition, three other men on two supply boats vanished about 46 kilometres from the mouth of the Mississippi, when the storm made its first pass along the Louisiana coast.

The storm was blamed for at least three deaths. Two men drowned at sea and a third was killed when he stepped on a downed electrical wire.

The hurricane struck shore Tuesday with winds of 120 kilometres per hour, but on Tuesday night, meteorologists downgraded it to a tropical storm.

The National Hurricane Centre in Miami said the storm slowed

after striking land, but its winds remained strong. It said the hurricane could remain stationary over central Louisiana for another day.

"We may see it wobble or do some more tricks over land today because it has very weak steering currents," said Hal Gerrish, a centre forecaster.

More than 9,000 residents of coastal communities, where floodwaters reached up to eight feet, were forced to leave their homes, emergency workers said.

Some 3,000 took refuge in shelters set up at schools and municipal buildings. The other 6,000 were put up at hotels or at the homes of friends.

The floodwaters and the damage to soybean and sugar cane crops also prompted Governor Edwin Edwards to declare a state of emergency in 13 parishes.

The Louisiana Farm Bureau, a growers' organisation, said up to 20 per cent of the state's cane crop was under water or had been destroyed by high winds.

In the small community of Lafitte, tidal waters more than two metres high flooded an above-ground cemetery.

At least one old, wooden casket popped out of a marble mausoleum and bobbed in the water, said Paul Connick, the Civil Defence director for Jefferson parish.

"It was an eerie, Halloween-like scene," Mr. Connick said. "The oak trees were draped with Spanish moss and fires broke out from electrical wires falling in the water."

On Grand Isle, a narrow island seven miles long, helicopters delivered food and medical supplies to 1,500 residents stranded for the last two days.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Diana wears necklace around her head

MELBOURNE (R) — Princess Diana stunned guests at a Melbourne charity ball Wednesday night by wearing a necklace gift from the queen as a headband. The emerald and diamond necklace, a 1982 wedding present from the queen, sparkled as the Princess and Prince Charles took the first dance before nearly 800 guests in a city hotel. A press spokesman said the princess changed her mind about what she would wear and chose an emerald green silk dress with a bare right shoulder instead of a long-cream dress with a low back. The evening featured a charity auction of a queen-sized brass bed, a China corgi, an electric blanket and a trip to New Zealand.

Tokyo's population reaches 11.9 million

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo had 11,903,956 people on Oct. 1, metropolitan government officials said Wednesday. They said the city had 4,599,948 households then.

Plans unveiled for English Channel tunnel

LONDON (AP) — The British partners in an Anglo-French group of banks and construction companies have said they have lined up enough money to start building a tunnel under the English Channel, an idea first proposed nearly 200 years ago. The Channel Tunnel Group, one of the two main consortiums vying for the project, said the proposed tunnel could open by 1993 and carry 30 million passengers and 13 million tons of freight during its first year of operation. Thursday is the deadline for submitting bids to the British and French governments for a contract to build a tunnel, bridge or a combination of the two linking Britain and France. The winning bid is to be announced by the end of January 1986, with construction to begin possibly as early as mid-1987, pending ratification of an Anglo-French treaty by both parliaments. The Channel Tunnel Group, a British consortium of five construction companies and two banks, with its French partners, France, Manche, is proposing a rail-only tunnel.

Ugandan soldiers auction off women

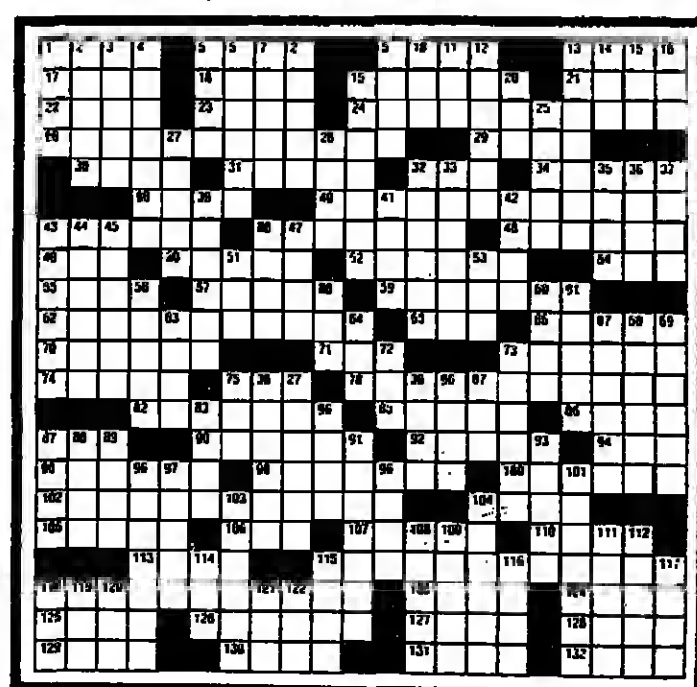
KAMPALA (R) — A woman who said she escaped from army captors has accused Ugandan government troops in the Luwero district of auctioning off women and girls for between \$10 and \$15. The woman, who said she managed to flee the area, north of the capital, told Reuters that soldiers were abducting schoolgirls and married women. Soldiers who had too many women auctioned them off to other soldiers, she said. The woman, who asked not to be identified, said husbands were shot dead if they tried to resist abduction of their wives. Meanwhile, the independent Soolouba newspaper reported that officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross with some army officers had rescued 10 schoolgirls and five women who had been held for weeks and raped by soldiers at Ngogolo Barracks north of Kampala. The rescue operation was begun after sister Maria Ikunda, head of Kasaala Primary School, reported that 10 girls, all younger than 15, had been taken to barracks, the newspaper said.

Algerian singer jailed on arms charges

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian singer Abdelnebi Ait Menguelat was jailed for three years by an Algiers court for illegal possession of firearms. Algeria's APS news agency said. It said the arms, which were found in his home, included pistols, submachine guns, and hunting guns. A sword-stick, a dagger, ammunition and battle dress was also found, it said.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Eitzen

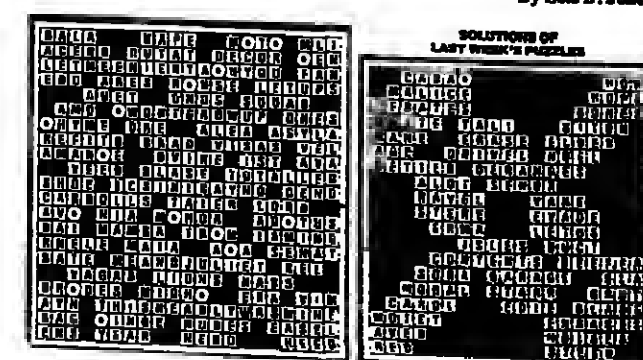


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Musical festival on safari, glancing killer elephant, felt wild, overwhelming urge: he wanted to tickle her ivory.
2. Really teacher's influence spreads out endlessly like ripples in the sea of life.
3. Inept thief, caught in act, made up perfect palindromic: "Too long to last."
4. Dainty dandelion diligently dandelion dandelion dandelion dandelion dandelion.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. M EHS VR BNTHPO GA SLH QUECMIT. UIG
3LB PHONES AD MS QUO SLUS M LUG SA
SUCH ANS U VAPSTUTH AI VR LUIG.
—By Les Sherry
2. CLEPMH KBOVDH DMAMDN XHVF ILLA OVLJ
AWHP XHVTSM ILE MWJOYV LV VMC XLK.
—By Earl Ireland
3. AEHSZTIZUAUDS DN KEVME REUMERE
ERZBKARV US PHV PDDOORTUM REEDE.
—By Connie Rosenfeld
4. IJAUIER UGO ENJO BEJA ENJOY VJOUR RJJ
ERJOYEN.
—By Lois B. Jones



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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARF
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THE VICTOR DEFEATED

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ A 8 6 5
♥ J 10
♦ A Q J 8
♦ Q 5 4

WEST EAST
♦ Q 10 9 ♥ J 2
♦ A 5 4 3 ♥ 7 2
♦ 10 9 7 ♥ 4 3 2
♦ A E J ♦ 10 9 8 6 5

SOUTH
♦ K 7 4 3
♥ K Q 9 8
♦ K 6 5
♥ 7 2

The bidding:
West — North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠
Pass Pass 2 ♠ 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead: King of ♠.

Psychic bidders remember and boast about their rare successes: they tend to overlook their many failures. East's efforts on this hand produced a spectacular Pyrrhic victory.

had spade break, or was worried that his partner might have only three spades and five hearts.

East had succeeded in his objective — he had kept his opponents out of their 4-4 spade fit. However, at four spades — the contract North-South would probably have reached had East not indulged in his shenanigans — declarer would have had to lose three side-suit tricks and a trump. Let's follow what happened at the rather strange contract of four hearts.

West led the king and ace of clubs and continued with a third round of the suit. (No other defense would have been any better.) Dummy's queen won and declarer duffed a spade. Declarer led the jack of trumps from the table and, when that was allowed to hold, he continued with the ten of hearts, overtaking in hand with the queen.

South was fortunate that, when West won the ace of hearts, he could not continue another club, which would have forced declarer to ruff. No matter what West chose to return, declarer would be able to win in hand, draw the last trumps and come to ten tricks via three trumps, two spades, four diamonds and a club.

Perhaps we should rewrite our bidding texts to cater for 4-2 fits instead of 4-1!